

Christopher to tour Mideast — Musa

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to tour the Middle East after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visits Washington in mid-November. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Tuesday, Mr. Musa also told reporters that he would travel to Israel Thursday for talks with Mr. Rabin on the stalled Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the Middle East peace process. Both Mr. Christopher and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat are to visit Cairo, Mr. Musa said. But the dates had not been fixed, he added. Mr. Musa told reporters Tuesday that during the trip Israel will deliver a letter from President Hosni Mubarak to Mr. Rabin and also will meet Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The visit follows Mr. Mubarak's talks Saturday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus. After that meeting, Mr. Mubarak expressed hope that a Syrian-Israeli agreement could be reached before the end of this year. Mr. Musa told reporters that he sees no reason for the Syrians and Israelis not to achieve progress, adding he sees signs to encourage optimism.

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جريدة الأردن تنشر يومية من المؤسسة الصحفية العربية الرأي

Projections show Kollek defeated

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, was headed for a resounding loss in his bid for a seventh term to young right-wing lawyer Ehud Olmert in Tuesday's municipal elections, viewed as a gauge of public support for the peace process. The exit poll broadcast by Israeli Television showed Mr. Olmert, a 48-year-old former health minister, ahead 55 to 41 per cent. The television said the final exit polls were taken two hours before the polls closed at 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) and no votes had been counted. Pollster Mina Tsemach said there had been a rush of voters in the final two hours but it was not expected to change the outcome. Mr. Kollek, 83, campaigned on his ability to keep the peace in a city that could be the tinder box of Jewish and Arab relations. But Mr. Olmert of the Likud Party successfully challenged Mr. Kollek by saying he was too old for the job. Amid the gloom at Kollek headquarters earlier when their own projections showed his defeat, the mayor for the past 28 years said: "I have nothing to say to anybody" and went home.

Adnan Talhouni to head Queen's office

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday appointing Adnan Al Talhouni as director of Her Majesty Queen Noor's office as of Nov. 1. Before his new appointment, Mr. Talhouni was an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. He has served as ambassadors to several countries. The Cabinet meanwhile endorsed the appointment of Ahmad Adelaih as Jordan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Syria.

PLO to reopen Washington office

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton is expected to reauthorise the reopening of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) offices here, administration sources said Tuesday. "The legislation is before the president," a senior official told AFP. "We expect him to sign it very soon after the next week or so," said an official close to the legislation. The PLO office will not have diplomatic status, a State Department official said.

Israeli tank fires at guerrilla trails

MARJAYOUN (AP) — An Israeli tank crew spotted guerrillas attempting to infiltrate into Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon Tuesday and blasted their trail with 20 cannon rounds. Several hours later, the body of a guerrilla was found lying near the village of Yater. The corpse was dragged into the Israeli-occupied zone, security sources said. Guerrillas unleashed a mortar barrage against an Israeli outpost in Sojod, on the edge of the central sector of the zone. No casualties were reported, the sources said. Israeli artillery struck back with barrages on Qalqilya Al Tuffah. Skirmishes in South Lebanon have become almost a daily ritual since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace accord in Washington Sept. 13.

Fighting erupts in southern Sudan

KAMPALA (AFP) — Fresh fighting has erupted between government forces and John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels east of Kaya in southern Sudan, relief agencies told AFP Tuesday. "There is a new influx of refugees into Koboko district of northwestern Uganda in the past one week," Geir Andreassen of the international Federation of Red Cross Societies said. Mr. Andreassen said the number of refugees were expected in the coming weeks or so could swell to between 20,000 and 40,000. The refugees were quoted as saying that hundreds of wounded civilians were stranded on the eastern bank of the Nile following a sudden rise in the water level due to heavy rains in the area.

German minister briefs Saudis on EC plans

JEDDAH (AP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Tuesday that he has briefed Saudi officials on political and economic support the European Community (EC) plans to extend to the Palestinians after the landmark peace accord with Israel. Since his arrival Monday, Mr. Kinkel has met with King Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and a host of other officials. He told a news conference that he briefed them on what the EC foreign ministers would offer to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat when he meets with them in Brussels next week. Mr. Kinkel said the Saudi leaders assured him that "Saudi Arabia is urgently awaiting peace" and "urging implementation" of the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel accord. Mr. Kinkel's visit was the first in six years by Bonn's chief diplomat. It followed trips to Egypt and Syria in May. He leaves Jeddah Wednesday for Jordan.

Palestinians reject Gaza pullout plan, halt self-rule talks

Combined agency dispatches

TABA, Egypt — The Palestinians suspended autonomy negotiations with Israel here indefinitely Tuesday demanding a "general military withdrawal" from the occupied Gaza Strip and not simply redeployment.

But Israel's chief delegate Amnon Shahak urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to return to the negotiating table, saying "the plan is not sacrosanct."

Nabil Shaath, his PLO counterpart, announced: "We are suspending the negotiations to go back to our leadership and allow our Israeli counterparts to go back to their leadership.

"The (autonomy) agreement provided for a withdrawal from Gaza not within the Gaza Strip. It is a withdrawal (that we) agreed and not a redeployment.

He called on Israel to implement fully the Sept. 13 accord granting autonomy to Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"This suspension signals an important message which will permit us to proceed more smoothly," Dr. Shaath said.

The Israeli interpretation of the agreement is quite failing to grasp the meaning of withdrawal and its requirement. The (Israeli) plan in our mind fails far short of the requirement."

PLO delegates accused Israel of wanting to carve up the Gaza Strip into a "series of islands" under a plan to "facilitate" the Taba talks.

Mr. Kaddoumi, quoted by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA, also called for all Jewish settlements in the occupied territories to be dismantled and for all the settlers to leave.

Speaking after a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, he said the presence of an "international protection force" was vital to ease the negotiations.

The PLO men did not resume scheduled talks with Israel during the afternoon and part of the Israeli delegation left the hotel.

As tension mounted, the chief delegates of both sides went into a two-hour tête-à-tête meeting to seek a solution

to the impasse over autonomy deal.

General Shahak told a press conference he hoped the negotiations would resume as soon as possible.

But he stressed: "We do not need any consultations, we know what we want."

"We did not ask to stop the negotiations. I am convinced the negotiations will soon resume, although I cannot give you a date now."

In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned there would be no concessions on security matters.

"We know there are difficulties over security," he told Israel radio. "Since we are intransigent on everything to do with our security needs and as we have no intention of making concessions in this area, you have to expect ups and downs, crises and mini-crisises in the negotiations," he said.

The three areas would be protected by electronic barriers and razor wire and linked to Israel by roads which avoid built-up Palestinian areas, the sources said.

The army also wants to have observation posts along Gaza's Mediterranean coastline and keep control of territorial waters.

Under the autonomy agreement disputes are to go to a ministerial-level Israel-PLO liaison committee which first met in Cairo on Oct. 13, the same day the negotiations began in Taba.

The fourth round of talks at this Red Sea resort had been set to continue until Wednesday evening and go into a fifth round next week.

Before the talks broke up, Dr. Shaath said Palestinians rejected anything short of a straight Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

"The Israelis are not talking about withdrawal. They are talking about redeployment — and this is really a basic difference in the concept," he said.

Witnesses said many Israeli and Palestinian delegates had already left the Red Sea resort

(Continued on page 5)

Car-bomber dies; Islamic Jihad issues hoax claim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian driver of a car-bomb died when it blew up Tuesday and in the occupied Gaza Strip opponents of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord issued a hoax statement claiming they had kidnapped and killed an Israeli settler.

The group Islamic Jihad sent a fax to the Associated Press claiming that it killed a 21-year-old Gaza settler to avenge the death of an Arab worker shot after he stabbed his Israeli employer in a pay dispute.

The claim from the Islamic Jihad's military wing included a muddy photocopy of an Israeli identification card, passport and checkbook.

An army spokesman asked about the incident, said the man identified in the documents was "alive and well in Tel Aviv," his place of residence. The spokesman added that the man was never kidnapped.

Israeli sources said the Israeli's car and papers had been stolen last week.

The car-bomb went off at about 6:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) near the village of Sinjal in the West Bank, about 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian driver was killed, the army said.

Israeli radios said the bombing was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in a telephone call to a news agency bureau in Jerusalem. They said the army suspected that the target of the attack was the Shilo settlement, about 4 kilometres north of where the car blew up.

Tuesday was the fifth suicide bombing Hamas has claimed since September when Israel and the PLO signed an autonomy deal for the Gaza Strip and Jericho. None has killed an Israeli.

The driver was Salameh Yussuf, 20, from Ayn Yaabid village, about 10 kilometres from Shilo, the caller said. He was a member of Izzeddin Al Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas.

An army patrol found the wreck with the remains of the body inside on a road close to Shilo.

The blast did not set off all the explosives and bottles of gas in the vehicle and bomb squad sappers had to remove the danger, the officials said.

The army clamped a curfew on Sinjal, the nearest Arab village, and combed the area between Ramallah and Nablus.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pointed a finger at Palestinian Islamic fundamentalists saying they sought "to sabotage the peace agreement and any chance of peace."

He accused the bombers in a radio interview of seeking to "provoke a reaction from the Israeli population and escalate violence, thereby undermining the peace process."

Referring to the wave of settler unrest, the DFLP urged the international community to put pressure on Israel "to halt this criminal offence and ensure proper protection for our people."

(Continued on page 4)

Jordan Times correspondents analyse campaigns and assess candidates' chances in individual constituencies:

Ma'an Governorate: Kabariti and Khleifat appear assured of seats; Islamists vie for remaining 3

From Abdullah Hasanat in Wadi Musa

it is only four to one in Ma'an governorate, the lowest ratio in the whole Kingdom.

Not that the governorate is short of hopefuls; rather, it is the Aug. 16 amendment to the election law (which introduced the one-person, one-vote formula) that made the race for the governorate's 35,824 votes all the more difficult to enter.

In 1989, when each voter could list five names in his or her ballot sheet, it was easy for candidates to harter votes and form alliances across the 120-kilometre length of the governorate. This time around, however, candidates in each of the constituency's five major population centres find it very difficult to campaign outside their own towns.

"There are no big slogans, no big promises. Every candidate is down-to-earth and reasonable in his programme and presenting his case," said a Ma'an observer of the campaign.

Even the number of candidates is modest when compared to other districts. For while the ratio of candidates to seats is as high as 11 to one in Amman's Fourth District,

(Continued on page 3)



Madaba and Thibane area (Sixth District) — issueless campaign, provincial politics

From Mariam M. Shahin in Madaba

A CONTEMPORARY

stronghold of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Madaba district (or Sixth District of Amman as it is officially known) is likely to be the sight of a serious competition between fundamentalist, provincial and nationalist politicians in the days leading up to the Nov. 8 elections.

While the autonomy agreement disputes are to go to a ministerial-level Israel-PLO liaison committee which first met in Cairo on Oct. 13, the same day the negotiations began in Taba.

The fourth round of talks at this Red Sea resort had been set to continue until Wednesday evening and go into a fifth round next week.

Before the talks broke up, Dr. Shaath said Palestinians rejected anything short of a straight Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

"The Israelis are not talking about withdrawal. They are talking about redeployment — and this is really a basic difference in the concept," he said.

Witnesses said many Israeli and Palestinian delegates had already left the Red Sea resort

Seventeen Muslim candidates are vying for their two seats where seven candidates are contesting the race for the Christian seat in this agriculturally-rich town of Biblical monuments.

Each Muslim contender is a member of the district's two large tribes, the Balgawish (from Balqa) and the Bani Hamida. The two tribes have some 14,000 and 6,500 voters respectively. Almost all of Madaba's almost 3,000 Christian voters are expected to split their vote among the seven candidates running for the Christian seat.

If the IAF policy of fielding tribal-backed candidates works as it did in 1989 and 1992, then this will again be a hotbed of the IAF since the party is fielding both a Balgawish and Bani Hamida candidate. On the other hand, if the votes are split, as most local observers believe will be the case, non-IAF candidates could sweep the Madaba seat.

It is generally believed that one of the two Muslim seats will go to a member of Bani Hamida since the tribe's aims are centred on simply getting one of their own elected to

Parliament. In the 1992 bye-election here, an independent leftist Abdul Hafez Shakhban received almost all of the registered Bani Hamida votes but lost to the candidate of the large Balgawish clan and IAF candidate Mohamad Khreibat Azaideh.

This time around the some 6,500 Bani Hamida voters will have to decide among three members of their clan who are running: Abdul Hafez Shakhban, the veteran Bani Hamida deputy and IAF candidate; Jamal Rawashneh, an independent; and Mr. Shakhban.

If the votes are equally split or even split into two equal parts, chances are that neither one of the three candidates will make it to the Lower House.

Both IAF candidates are said to be challenged by a

(Continued on page 4)

WARNING

"On November 1992,

International Computers Limited (ICL) and Comcent Trading & Contracting Co., signed a Distributorship Agreement whereby Comcent became the only authorised Distributor of ICL equipment in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the West Bank. ICL equipment covered within the agreement is manufactured in the UK and Western Europe.

It has been noticed that certain parties in Jordan have recently been offering equipment with the ICL label made under licence by ICIM of India. It must be made clear that ICIM is only generally authorised to sell ICL equipment in the Indian sub-continent.

Comcent are not liable to provide support, spare parts or maintenance for any ICL equipment not purchased through Comcent.

Comcent forewarns the public against purchasing equipment manufactured by ICIM - India under the pretence of it being ICL-UK original, and in contradiction to its territorial jurisdiction and authority."

Jordan Times

IAEA: Iraqi nuclear capacity neutralised

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Monday Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme has either been destroyed or neutralised, with no "big pieces" missing.

But Hans Blix, the IAEA's director-general, told the U.N. General Assembly he still had to fill in gaps about Iraq's nuclear supply channels and sources of scientific information.

But after 21 inspection missions, the IAEA concluded that "Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme has been mapped, and is either destroyed or neutralised," he said.

"Through a piecing together of the evidence we have found, we have a consistent and coherent picture of the nuclear programme," he told a news conference following his speech.

"There are no big pieces missing," he said.

Mr. Blix said the agency had followed up reports on the "alleged existence" of a research reactor and found nothing.

He said declared non-irradiated highly-enriched uranium was removed in November 1991, and a schedule has been set up to remove declared irradiated highly-enriched uranium.

"When this activity is complete, no highly-enriched uranium and no capacity to produce it should remain in Iraq," he told the assembly.

But Mr. Blix said an inspection team now in Iraq needed more information on Iraq's technical advisors and suppliers.

"We hope that, on the basis of documentation very recently made available by Iraq, the last pieces of this picture will soon be clarified in a way which will contribute toward full and effective long-term monitoring," he added.

Iraq has not yet agreed to a

Dissident: Time ripe for Saddam's ouster

LONDON (AP) — Military opposition to Saddam Hussein has intensified following an abortive coup in July and the atmosphere in Baghdad is now "much more conducive" to his overthrow, an Iraqi dissident said Monday.

Saad Sabah Jibril, president of the Free Iraqi Council, said President Saddam probably executed between 500 and 600 officers after the plot was betrayed, possibly by the United States which refused to participate.

"The officers have gone completely into high gear in opposition to Saddam because these officers that were executed have many brothers and cousins and relatives in top positions in the armed forces, and it's like a vendetta now," Mr. Jibril said.

"Now Saddam is damned if he does and if he's damned if he doesn't. If he executes more officers, the vendetta grows and if he doesn't it encourages officers to attempt more coup d'ets," he said in an interview.

"I strongly believe... that the atmosphere inside Baghdad is much more conducive now for the overthrow of Saddam," Mr. Jibril said.

Therefore, the sources said, if Iraq ever agrees and the special commission would have to reach a political decision on whether to wind up the bulk of their investigations.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tareq Aziz, intends to address the Security Council this month when arms talks resume in New York. He would like assurances that the oil embargo would be lifted if Baghdad agrees to the monitoring programme.

But it is extremely doubtful the council will give any formal for informal guarantees, thereby making it unlikely the oil embargo will be lifted in the near future.

Last bedouin nomads battle Israel for land

By Brian Perrin
The Associated Press

HAR HANEGET — Fadia Abu Gaoud was cooking breakfast outside her tent when a convoy of Israeli soldiers came and tore it down.

"There were maybe 30 of them," said Mrs. Abu Gaoud, 65. "They pulled hard on the tent poles and broke them in pieces. They took our tent and all our things away and left us there. Now they won't tell us where is our tent."

The eviction of the Abu Gaoud clan and six other families from Har Haneget in the desert was another skirmish in the bedouin's losing battle to maintain their nomadic lifestyle.

Traditionally, bedouin have roamed the deserts of the Middle East, indifferent to borders and states. Unlike Palestinians, they do not seek an independent state, only the right to live and graze their sheep on ancestral lands.

Starting in the 1950s, Israel encouraged bedouin to give up their nomadic ways and move to townships built for them around Beersheba. Bedouin took Israeli citizenship and many joined the army, where they are renowned as trackers and scouts.

Clinton Bailey of Tel Aviv University, an expert on bedouin culture, said the policy was based on a belief that "the standard of living of nomadic people is too low and that they should be settled."

Mr. Bailey also said Israel wants to remove the bedouin from the central desert in order to keep the land open for future settlement of Jewish immigrants and for pasture reserves or military training grounds.

In 1977, the lands administration formed a ranger unit known as the Green Patrol with a prime mission of removing the bedouin. The patrol's tactics include cutting off water, confiscating livestock and physically removing tents and belongings, as at Har Haneget.

Alex Bligh, a former government advisor on Arab affairs, said resettlement should be done "on a humane basis and always by agreement" and criticised what he considers official haste.

"What is all the rush right now?" he asked. "I really don't understand. I'm afraid that what is going on... will bring more alienation of the bedouin."

The land around Har Haneget is part of a military training zone and "nobody can live there — not Jews, not Christians, not Muslims," said Meron Humash of the lands administration.

He said force would be used only against bedouin who defied court orders: "We won't touch them until then, but if the court rules against them, we will move in and remove them with full force."

The evictions from Har Haneget occurred after a 15-year court battle.

Haim Rosemberg, lawyer for the families, said they did not start legal action until long after the government's first attempt to move them.

All their previous contacts with governments — the British and the Turks — had

meant only taxes," he said. "So when they heard 'government,' they just disappeared. If they had protested immediately, they might have had a chance."

Forty-five other families remain in Har Haneget, the last of the bedouin living freely in Israel. They, too, await court rulings on their claims to the land.

Most of the 80,000 bedouin in the desert have been relocated since the 1970s. Many have moved into the townships, but more than 45,000 refuse to be settled.

Forbidden to return to the desert, they live in crowded bolding areas such as Ramat Hovav on the outskirts of Beersheba.

Of Jordan's 300,000 bedouin, only about 7,000 remain nomadic. Bedouin also live in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, but few keep the nomadic tradition.

In Ramat Hovav, where Mrs. Abu Gaoud now lives in her son-in-law's patchwork tent of burlap and plastic, the air is heavy with the stench of chemicals from a plant across

the road. High-voltage wires from a power grid crisscross the holding camp in every direction.

"Being here chokes the life out of you," she said, pulling an old belt around her neck in a noose to illustrate. "I want to be in the open places again."

Ironically, as the lands administration moves the bedouin into settlements, the tourism ministry promotes their nomadic culture as an attraction.

Just south of Ramat Hovav is Pinat Hamidab, a replica of a bedouin camp where tourists may sample their cuisine, sweet tea and bitter coffee and take camel rides into the desert.

An American researcher came here from the university a few weeks ago," said Salaam Siblei, a 25-year-old guide at the tourist camp who was evicted from Har Haneget five years ago. "He said he wanted to study bedouin life.

"I told him there is no more bedouin life. This is a museum. We all have gone to Ramat Hovav."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctor beats woman to death in exorcism

Cairo (R) — A Cairo doctor who persuaded a woman she was possessed by evil spirits beat her to death in an attempt to exorcise her, a Cairo newspaper reported on Tuesday. Eye doctor Aladdin Mohammad was arrested after housewife Nadia Hafez Shabeb, 39, died when he beat her with a rod to scare out evil spirits. Al Gomhouria said.

Kuwait criticises reported Iraq move

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq has proposed that a committee of Arab states to solve the question of Kuwaitis missing and believed held in Iraq but a Kuwaiti official has criticised the suggestion, the official Kuwaiti News Agency reported. The agency said without elaboration that Iraq on Monday had proposed Morocco and Qatar form a "Gulf-Maghreb and Kuwaiti parliamentary committee as a prelude to closing the file of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war." The agency said the proposal had been made on Monday by Nabil Najem, an Iraqi representative at the Arab League. It gave no further details. The agency report added: "An authoritative source said the alleged Iraqi effort to end the plight of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war was a new attempt to evade (U.N.) Security Council resolutions and efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross in this regard.

Israel pays U.S. parking fines

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel has paid nearly \$63,000 in outstanding parking fines to the District of Columbia but Russia is refusing to clear its \$3.8 million debt to the U.S. capital, the Washington Post reported Monday. Early Tuesday editions of the Post said Israel was the first government to settle its debt under a new law that would cut foreign aid to countries that refuse to pay their fines. The Post said Russia had the highest accumulated debt in Washington, with Nigeria in second place. Neither country intended paying their fines, arguing that the city provided them with too few parking spaces near their embassy buildings. Until now, embassies have been protected by diplomatic immunity from paying fines. But Congress recently passed legislation requiring countries receiving aid from the United States to pay or have their aid allotments reduced by the same amount plus a 10 per cent penalty.

PFLP, Hizbullah agree joint action

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Two groups opposed to the arrangement for Palestinian autonomy said here Monday they had agreed to do all they could to wreck the scheme. In a statement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said its Secretary-General George Habash and the leader of pro-Iranian group Lebanese Hizbullah, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, had agreed to "continue all forms of struggle against the Zionist occupation." The two groups said they had examined the "dangers" of the autonomy agreement for Palestinians in the occupied territories, signed in Washington on Sept. 13, and "U.S. attempts to impose compromises contradicting the aspirations and interests of the Arab Nation." Sheikh Nasrallah held talks in Damascus at the weekend with officials of Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which also opposes the accord.

Israel to privatise shipyard

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Monday it would sell off loss-making Israel shipyards as part of a wider privatisation plan. The ministerial committee on privatisation approved a plan to take the yard out of receivership and settle its \$140 million debt before the sell-off, treasury officials said. They did not give details of the agreement to be reached with the

accord.

Mr. Jibril said he passed the message to the plotters and assumed they would scrap their plans. But they decided to go ahead with an assassination attempt in Baghdad on July 17, when President Saddam attended a parade marking the anniversary of his Baath Party's 1968 seizure of power.

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It will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers, and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.: 17/21

Wind: 15/24

Clouds: 9/22

Temperature: 15/27

Humidity: 27/34

Pressure: 1012.50

Wind direction: NE

Wind speed: 15/20

Clouds: 10/15

Temperature: 15/27

Humidity: 27/34

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Temperature: 15/27

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Ministry to examine Petra region's tourism needs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism is drawing up an integrated and comprehensive plan to examine the Petra region in order to meet the needs of the tourism industry in these areas of major attraction. Minister of Tourism Mohammad Al Adwan said Tuesday.

A special committee which would group representatives of various tourist offices is to supervise the implementation of the study and plans for developing the Petra region, said Dr. Adwan.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with representatives of travel and tourist offices, the Mayor of Wadi Musa, (near Petra), horse owners whose livelihood depends on providing horseback rides to tourists through the ancient city and representatives of the Jordanian Hotels Association.

In reviewing ways to stimulate the tourism industry, Dr. Adwan said the ministry plans to develop the infrastructure

for touristic services in the region and has granted licences for the construction of six hotels in the area.

Three hotels are already being built.

Tourist groups to the Kingdom are on the increase and it is vital for the public and private sectors to step up their cooperation to offer good services, said the minister.

As tourism is one of the country's main sources of income it is of vital importance to develop this industry with a view to safeguarding the national interests, added Dr. Adwan.

Following a discussion of problems facing the industry in Petra and the southern regions, a decision was taken to set up a sub-committee to deal with any obstacles.

The sub-committee, which is to be chaired by Ministry Secretary General Nasri Atallah, will group representatives of the travel and tourist offices and Petra area horse owners.



The siq, a passageway leading to the rock-carved Nabatean city of Petra (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)



Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar Tuesday meets with Jordan News Agency, Petra, staff (Petra photo)

Jordan has dealt honestly, sincerely with Palestine issue — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar said Jordan has dealt with the Palestine question with all honesty, honour, trust and sincerity and has defended the Palestinian cause with all the means available.

At a meeting with the Jordan News Agency staff, Dr. Abu Nowar said Jordan's firm position on regional and international issues is an honourable one.

He said that the current atmosphere requires that "all

of us be alert and carefully. He stressed the importance of consolidating Jordan's position and objectives safeguarding national achievements and enhancing the Kingdom's capacities.

On parliamentary elections which will be held next Monday, Dr. Abu Nowar said the government is guided in its action by His Majesty King Hussein's directives which are meant to ensure the freedom, integrity and fairness of the elections.

He added that the government

is based on credibility of this position."

The minister praised the role of the Jordan News Agency in reflecting Jordan's image.

"The agency has an important role to play, particularly at this crucial stage in the history of our people and nation," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

He emphasised the need to deal with the issues at hand with an enlightened mind and to observe accuracy of information and objectivity in relaying it.

Listless campaign, provincial politics

(Continued from page 1)
to predict because the votes could go into so many directions and thus nothing should be taken for granted," his realative said.

The director of the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies, and a native of Madaba, Dr. Mustapha Hamarneh, said such confusion maybe due to the fact that "local issues are being dealt on one level, while true political debate is absent."

On the other hand, only one of the seven candidates for the Christian seat is politicised, or more accurately speaking, ideologically motivated. He is Salem Nahas, the candidate of the Jordan's Peoples Democratic Party (JPDP), who stands only a moderate chance of winning.

Mrs. Nahas' chances will be stronger only if Muslim leftists and Palestinian vo-

ters, who live in Madaba's refugee camp, give him their votes.

Thus left wing votes could go to either Mr. Nahas or Mr. Shakhaneh.

But two other candidates for the Christian seat in Madaba are believed to have equally strong chances at winning the Christian seat if this category of candidates is to rely on Christian/clan votes alone.

Ghaleb Qusus-Karadshah and Samih Farab Al Azaizat are said to have the best chance of Christian backing in their district.

"People here are concerned about what the deputy will do for Madaba and not theories and rhetoric," said the wife of one of the Christian candidates, who did not want to be identified by name.

The following are the names and political and tribal

affiliations of some of the Madaba candidates:

Christian seat: (one)

— Salem Al Nahas — JPDP member.

— Samih Farab Al Azaizat — independent.

Ghaleb Qusus-Karadshah — independent.

Muslim seats: (two)

— Fayed Shawabke — former government official.

— Abdul Majeed Aqtash — independent Muslim Brotherhood.

— Mohammad Abu Kaf — independent Islamist.

— Mohammad Azaideh — IAF candidate and former deputy since August 1992 (Balqasieh).

Abdul Hafith Alawi — IAF candidate and former deputy for Madaba (since 1989).

Abdul Hafith Shakhaneh — former communist, now independent leftist.

German foreign minister to arrive today

AMMAN (Petra) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel arrives here today (Wednesday) on a one-day visit for talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral relations, economic cooperation and the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Kinkel is scheduled to meet His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

On the eve of Mr. Kinkel's visit, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hasani welcomed the German official's visit and said it will focus on the latest developments of the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

In a statement Mr. Al Hasani said Jordan attaches special importance to this visit, given Germany's contribution as a member of the European Community (EC), to the peace process and developing economic and commercial relations.

Mr. Kinkel will address a press conference, which will be held Wednesday evening to brief journalists on the outcome of his talks in Jordan and the region.

Jordan gets \$80m World Bank loan; Japan studies matching credit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has received \$80 million in a World Bank loan to finance expansion of its energy sector, and the loan will be matched by a Japanese government loan on the same terms and conditions, officials and diplomats said Tuesday.

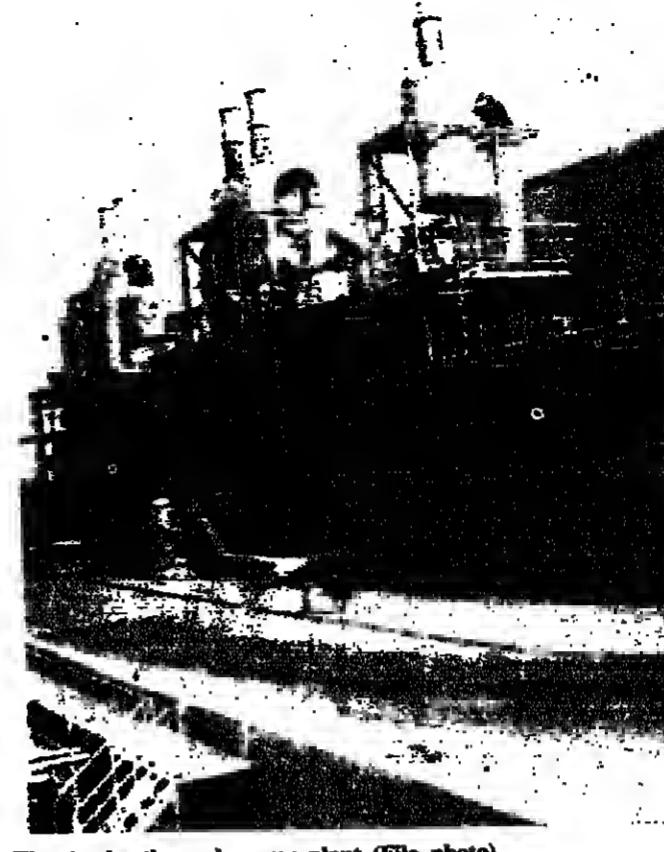
The officials noted that the release of the World Bank loan comes after an International Monetary Fund (IMF) approval of Jordan's adherence to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the IMF.

They said the loan would be utilised for several energy projects, particularly for an expansion scheme at the Aqaba thermal power plant. The scheme, which involves increasing the generating capacity to 260 megawatts from the present 130 megawatts at the oil-run plant, was shelved in the late 80s when gas was found in Al Rishieh, in eastern Jordan.

At the then prevailing prices, the expansion was to have cost around \$300 million. Present estimated cost is unknown.

With the installation and commissioning of the additional 30-megawatt turbine at Al Rishieh to two other 30-megawatt generators, gas now accounts for around 15 per cent of the Kingdom's energy needs.

The gas fields at Al Rishieh are believed to hold around 215 billion cubic feet of natural gas.



The Aqaba thermal power plant (File photo)

Rishieh. Officials said work was continuing at the site to establish the possible reserves there.

Toshihiro Shinohara of the economy section of the Japanese embassy in Amman said, meanwhile, his government had pledged to match

the \$80 million World Bank loan at a meeting of a consultative group of donors in Paris early this year.

Now that the World Bank loan has been released, "we will be looking into the modalities of the Japanese contribution," Mr. Shinohara told the Jordan Times.

Neither Mr. Shinohara nor the officials could provide the terms and conditions of the loans, such as interest and repayment period, except that they were "soft credits."

The World Bank decision to release the loan was taken in early October after the IMF provided a stand-by certification that Jordan was following the measures stipulated in the economic restructuring programme.

The certification also approved a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) request to increase a ceiling on commercial bank credits for the last quarter of 1993. Under the increase, the ceiling was raised to JD 460 million from JD 400 million for the whole year.

The IMF approval was issued on the basis of an assurance provided by Jordan that it would soon be adopting some of the outstanding measures stipulated in the restructuring agreement.

Jordan has delayed the introduction of a sales tax to replace a current consumption tax until the end of the year. The tax was supposed to have been in place in early 1993.

Prince Ra'd calls for comprehensive strategy for the handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, who is president of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, Tuesday stressed the need to draft a comprehensive strategy for the handicapped, covering the areas of health, labour, education, public safety and integration of the handicapped in their communities.

Prince Ra'd was speaking during a meeting of the National Council for the Handicapped, chaired by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour.

Prince Ra'd called for rehabilitating handicapped people and preparing them for jobs in various institutions, in line with a commitment made by companies and institutions on bilateral relations, economic cooperation and the Middle East peace process.

The proposed unit can perform genetic tests on couples considering marriage to determine the probability of their having a genetically disabled child.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Journalist awarded Tunisia's cultural medal

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Tuesday conferred Tunisia's medal of Cultural Merit on Jarir Maraqqa, a Jordanian citizen who has been running the Qatari News Agency office in Tunis for 14 years. President Ben Ali also presented a gold medal to Mr. Maraqqa in appreciation of his effort in promoting Arab information activities and serving the Arab media. Mr. Maraqqa had worked for the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Jordan Broadcasting Corporation before taking up his post as director of the Qatari News Agency in Tunis in 1976.

Income Tax Department collects JD7.3m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department collected JD7,316,963 from taxpayers during October, compared with JD6,563,982 collected in October 1992, according to Income Tax Department Director General Mansour Haddadin. Mr. Haddadin said the department has collected JD105,598,359 during the period Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, 1993.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

LEADING CONTRACTOR NEEDS QUALIFIED ENGINEERS FOR PROJECTS IN BEIRUT AND SUBURBS

1 - SITE MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS : CIVIL ; OR MECH . 10 - 20 YRS . EXPERIENCE ON SITES - MIN. 5 YEARS IN MANAGEMENT . VIZ : PIPE LAYING , ROADWORKS , INDUSTRIAL CONCRETE , ELECTRO - MECHANICAL INSTALLATIONS .

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BRING YOUR C.V. AND DOCUMENTS

Municipality to help Amman flood victims

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amman Municipality is determined to help homeowners who are threatened by floods in the wadis and close to streams and other safer areas in which to live, and action in this regard is expected to be taken early next spring, according to Amman Mayor Mamduh Al Abbadi.

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times that the municipality, in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), would offer new housing units to homeowners in these flood-prone areas and the municipality would offer compensation to encourage residents to leave these dangerous zones.

The mayor was commenting on Monday's flooding of 13 homes in the low lying districts including Wadi Haddadeh, as a result of the unexpected torrential rains that fell in the early hours of the morning Monday.

These homes, Dr. Abbadi said, are built illegally in areas marked for streets, and their residents are constantly facing the danger of winter floods.

In preparation for the cold season this year, the municipality's teams had cleaned all the manholes and culverts to facilitate the flow of rain water, but sand and earth from pavements and in front of newly built homes were swept by

Monday's rains into these underground channels causing the flooding, continued the mayor.

He added that municipality teams are at work clearing the blocked areas and will remain on alert for any emergency.

Those homes which were flooded, said Dr. Abbadi, lie below the street level which was raised in the course of a JD 3 million re-organisation project conducted by the municipality.

All we can do this winter is to open temporary canals to channel away the rain water until the homeowners move, according to the mayor.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) and the municipality rescue teams and emergency services took part in providing relief to the residents affected by the floods, while the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided the flood victims with food and blankets.

The mayor was among the first group of officials to inspect the flooded homes.

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology said Tuesday that no more rain was expected Wednesday, and no cold fronts were due within the next four days.

A department official said that temperatures could reach 20°C Wednesday, and will drop to around 9°C at night in the Amman region.

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Jordan Times

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Elections par excellence

REPORTS ON elections being held in newly democratising countries talk of candidates using every trick in the book and outside it to tip the scales in their favour. Those tricks include among other things vote rigging, double or triple voting, destruction of ballot boxes, vote buying and tearing up of voter cards to block voting for opponents. There have been already allegations and warnings that one or more of these methods could be used in our own elections on Monday. The law of course guarantees that every candidate can have his or her representative present at the polling centre. Governors have already held meetings with candidates and their representatives to explain to them the rules of the game. The Ministry of Interior has also deployed 19,000 police officers to maintain law and order at polling stations throughout the Kingdom. It is of course expected that these officers have already been and would further be briefed on violations and handling of offenders. During the whole day Monday, the police force is expected to behave like "elections officers" in the same manner that traffic police handle the movement of traffic and fine offenders. Courts, according to the law can order the imprisonment up to one year or fines up to JD 500 of violators committing any of a dozen electoral crimes. These include impersonation, double or triple voting, carrying arms, use of force to enter into a polling station, impeding elections and tampering with ballot boxes, papers or election cards.

There are bound to be in these elections, like in any other elections around the world, many problems that require the attention of every official involved in the process. The ultimate responsibility, however, for ensuring free and fair elections rests with the government as entrusted to it by the law and by the continued urging of the leadership. It is therefore the sacred duty of the government to ensure problem-free elections that would in turn strengthen our democratic process and enhance people's faith in our country as a whole.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily Tuesday blamed the Israeli government and army for the continued acts of aggression of the Jewish settlers against the Palestinian population in the West Bank. Despite the concessions offered by the PLO, which contributed to the conclusion of the Sept. 13 agreement with the Israeli government, nothing is being done to stem the acts of violence committed against the Palestinian citizens, said the paper. It is noted that the wave of violence coincided with the start of PLO-Israeli talks in Taba over the implementation of the PLO-Israeli deal for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, the paper said. The settlers, whose actions are not checked by the Israeli forces are trying to sabotage the deal concluded on Sept. 13, especially as they realise that their settlements would be located in areas where the self-rule government is to be established, added the paper. Had the Israeli government reached a deal with the PLO, whereby the settlements could be dismantled, no violence would have erupted in the occupied Arab lands and no Israeli settlers would have brutally and viciously attacked Arab citizens and their property, added the daily. The paper said that Yitzhak Rabin's government should now put an end to such provocative actions on the part of the settlers since the continuation of the violence is bound to undermine the PLO-Israeli deal, should the deal fail, more despair and more violence on the two sides will flare up, destroying any hope of a settlement.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said he backed calls for maintaining the boycott of Israel until peace has been established. Arab fears that Israeli goods and economic power would dominate the Arab markets is justified in the absence of a genuine peace, security and stability, said Taher Al Udwani. The Arabs must not end their boycott of Israel as long as the Israelis hold on to Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel and as long as they refuse to recognise the full rights of the Palestinians, called Udwani. The present Israeli policies and recent statements by Israeli leaders indicate that peace is still out of reach and that the Arab-Israeli conflict will take a long time to be settled, said the writer. The Arab boycott of Israel should remain in place for at least five years, during the Palestinian self-rule, and should last until Israel recognises the rights of the Arabs in their homeland, stressed Udwani. The Arab, said the writer, should deny Israel the fulfilment of its dream of dominating the Arab economy and the Arab future, while it continues to defy world resolutions and continues to strengthen its hold over the Palestinian land through its settlements. The writer demanded that the Arab League take the initiative and declare measures to ensure the continuation of the boycott to safeguard the Arab Nation's interests.



M. KAHIL

The Arab boycott of Israel should continue until peace is attained

By Pascal B. Karmy

Following His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's meeting with U.S. President Clinton and Shimon Peres at the White House on Oct. 1, the Prince stated the following: "It would be economic suicide for the Arabs to lift the boycott without gaining anything in return. To those who have said the boycott is economic warfare, I would say removing the boycott is economic suicide."

Again, in the speech delivered on Oct. 26 at the Arab Thought Forum, Prince Hassan stated: "The Arab boycott of Israel has always been linked to the Middle East conflict and after the conflict has been settled the boycott rules will be dealt with accordingly." These statements reflect factually and legally the point of view of international law and international customary practice.

The Arab boycott of Israel was decided unanimously by the member states of the Arab League in the aftermath of the Israeli-Arab war in 1948 which resulted in the expulsion by the Israelis of thousands of Palestinians from their homes in Palestine.

In order to formalise,

supervise and control this boycott, the Arab League established The Arab Boycott of Israel Office as a subsidiary organ of the league. The committee members of the office whose seat is in Damascus, meet once a year to consider the latest development of the boycott of Israel. The last meeting, scheduled to be held in Damascus on Oct. 24, was postponed indefinitely, apparently following American pressure as a result of eight Arab states refused to attend.

The functions and duties of the boycott office are, *inter alia*, to gather information about companies which have relations with Israeli companies, to find out any foreign company which has an office or a branch in Israel, carries on business or has investment in Israel. Such companies are put on the blacklist and their names are circulated to all Arab countries so that the latter do not establish any commercial links with them. Nationals of Arab countries are also prohibited to establish any commercial dealing with Israel or its citizens. Israeli exports are subject to the boycott. Goods or commodities imported by Arab countries must be accompanied by certificates indicating their origin. These certificates must be endorsed by the pertinent Arab chamber of commerce so as to prevent the entry of Israeli exports into the Arab countries under the guise of foreign exports. Thus, the Arab boycott of Israel is direct in that the Arab countries should not have commercial dealing with Israel or its companies and indirect in that any foreign company having commercial dealings with Israel is boycotted and put on the blacklist.

At the outset of the establishment of the Arab boycott, and thereafter, it was believed that the Arab boycott would have little or no effect on the Israeli economy. It was alleged that the boycott would be detrimental to the economies of the Arab countries as many foreign companies would prefer to do business with Israel rather than with the Arab countries. And it was further claimed that Israeli goods were being exported to the Arabs either clandestinely or indirectly under false certificates of origin. If these claims and allegations were true, then why did the U.S. and the American Jews raise an outcry against the Arab boycott and even went so far as to threaten the PLO if it supported the boycott.

In effect, later developments have demonstrated that the boycott has had its

effect not only on Israel but on foreign companies put on the blacklist. To counter the boycott, the U.S. Congress passed laws against any American company which complies with the Arab boycott rules and made it liable to legal action and consequent imposition of heavy fines. Thus, American companies could no longer issue certificates of origin for their exports to the Arab countries. Other states, especially the industrialised European ones, followed suit and passed laws against the Arab boycott. In general however, the Arab boycott was respected although the importing Arab countries could no longer insist on the issue of certificates of origin by companies in the U.S. or in the European states.

Now what is the legal position with regard to the Arab boycott of Israel? Is it legal and is it justified? The legal point of view cannot be explained in extenso in this short article. Briefly stated, it must be pointed out that the Arab states are still in a state of war with Israel. Consequently, the rules of warfare apply as no peace treaty has been concluded to formally end the state of war. There may be now a truce or an armistice between Israel and the Arab states, particularly Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. The effect of a truce is to temporarily suspend active hostilities. Again, termination of hostilities may be ordered by the United Nations Security Council as were Resolutions 242 and 338 of 1967 and 1973 respectively, but such resolutions do not end the state of war as long as no peace treaty has been concluded between the belligerents. It can thus be concluded that the Arab states are entitled in law and in the exercise of their sovereign powers to boycott Israel out of the occupied territories. Arab public opinion will be enraged if the boycott is lifted before real peace has been achieved in the Arab Middle East.

It should be added that

apart from the Arab government's official boycott, the Arab peoples themselves support the boycott.

Examples of boycott on the international plane, as distinct from the Arab region, show that there are many such examples of boycott or trade embargo even where there exists no state of war between the state imposing the boycott and the state subjected to the boycott or the embargo. Among the most important boycotts was that of the U.S. against China, which lasted until the 1970s when President Nixon made overtures to China. The U.S. is still boycotting Cuba and has done so since the accession to power of Fidel Castro in 1959. In compliance with United Nations resolutions, South Africa was boycotted by the whole world for its apartheid policy and the boycott was very recently lifted following the termination of this policy. The U.S. again imposed a very harsh trade embargo, a few years ago, against Nicaragua in order to help the Contras to overthrow the legitimate Sandinista government although no hostilities had previously or thereafter occurred between the U.S. and Nicaragua.

The Arab states have strong legal grounds to continue the boycott of Israel in as much as the latter is still occupying parts of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in addition to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Unless and until Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territories and a formal peace treaty has been concluded, the Arab boycott of Israel will and should persist and the Arab states are entitled to apply all forms of pressure to force Israel out of the occupied territories. Arab public opinion will be enraged if the boycott is lifted before real peace has been achieved in the Arab Middle East.

Yeltsin chastises cabinet

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin sternly chastised his government Tuesday for failing to contain a revolt by conservative hardliners last month and blamed the cabinet for ineptitude in addressing Russia's most urgent political and economic needs.

The Russian president, in his first wide-ranging policy statement since the parliament-led rebellion was violently crushed on Oct. 4, also called for tough new emergency measures to counter potential new "political terrorism" in the country.

"It must be admitted that we underestimated this danger and showed unforgivable complicity," Mr. Yeltsin told a session of the cabinet that was also attended by about 50 other leading political figures and regional officials.

Under the Israel-PLO agreement, Jericho is supposed to achieve autonomy within several months and be policed by a Palestinian force after the army begins withdrawing in December.

Those detained belong to a 130-member interim force set up by the PLO in Jericho, partly to prevent violence by Arab peace accord opponents.

Two years after Madrid, foes to become partners

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

one either," said a PLO official.

An Israeli diplomat said: "Madrid was certainly a turning point. It changed all the philosophy, opened new minds and new horizons. Madrid changed the history of the whole region."

"We have achieved significant progress. The idea that we sit together today with the enemies of yesterday and talk together about solving the struggle not by war but by negotiations is an important achievement," he added.

Madrid gave birth to the idea of a comprehensive settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. On the side, it launched the multilateral talks on arms control, trade, environment and water rights.

On Sept. 13, Arabs and Israelis ended a century of hatred and hostility over territory they both claimed as their ancient homeland by signing a peace agreement in Washington.

The terms of the agreement were negotiated by the two sides secretly in the Norwegian capital Oslo while successive rounds of formal peace talks in Washington failed to yield progress.

Now Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are sitting face-to-face on a negotiating table in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba drawing the boundaries and the shape for an independent Palestinian state.

Israel and Jordan signed an outline peace agreement in September, and Israel and Syria and Lebanon are yet to follow.

The Taba talks deal with working out details on the bitterly contested and stubborn issues at the heart of the Middle East conflict — land, borders, prisoners, the rights of the stateless Palestinians and Israel's security.

Under the self-rule accord, Israeli troops would withdraw from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip by Dec. 13 and hand over security to the Palestinians.

"We wouldn't have had Oslo if we did not have Madrid. Madrid broke lots and lots of taboos between the Arabs and Israelis," said a western diplomat in reference to the secret talks between the PLO and Israel that led to the Sept. 13 self-rule deal.

"Think of the state of mind before and after Madrid. A Palestinian would not have talked to an Israeli and a Syrian would not have looked at

itself to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Israel refused to say how far it might withdraw until Syria said whether it would agree to a full peace — open borders and embassies.

LETTERS

New tune to old story

To the Editor:

I would like to take issue with the comments made by Dr. Labib Kamhawi to the CNN correspondent in Amman regarding the question of who is Palestinian and who is Jordanian. I think it is about time that the citizen of this country, whether Palestinian or Jordanian, heard a different tune on the issue. The citizens of this country are tired of the same old story about the loss of Palestine. We all agree that we owe the Palestinians many things: the knowledge, the manpower, the education and the management skills they brought into this country. But at the same time, the Palestinians must also acknowledge the fact that without the facilities Jordan has provided them with, they would be hard put to offer anybody any benefit of their talents and education. The rights that the Palestinians have enjoyed in this country are tremendous. They are, to name only a few, the rights to own property, to education in schools, to establish companies, and the freedoms of choice to reside anywhere and of movement. But most important of all, they have had the privilege of a Jordanian passport: this document is indeed a privilege because Jordan is the only country in the Middle East which gave it to the Palestinians, thus enabling them to travel as respectable citizens anywhere they wanted.

Dr. Kamhawi represents certain companies in Jordan because he holds that document, and I wonder if he can do that in other countries. I am sure that he is aware that most Palestinians in other countries are still living in camps and are not allowed to own, move or reside anywhere without the approval of these states' governments; nor are they allowed to own companies or represent an interest.

Let us therefore show some gratitude and leave the selfish attitude which has hindered us from thinking in a positive manner.

Although Dr. Kamhawi has the capability of being objective, since he holds a Ph. D. from England, I wonder why he cannot use his education in levelling constructive criticism, by starting to show some gratitude instead of his constant attacks on this country. Yes, we are living in a democracy, but it does not give him the right to criticise the regime which gave him the shelter and the protection which he is enjoying; and if he does not like it, well, I am sure other countries would welcome him with open arms.

Col. (Ret.) Nasser Mirza,
P.O. Box 926500,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jordan Times

Russian premier says hardest part of reforms over

MOSCOW (R) — Russian officials Tuesday ruled out a return to a centrally planned economy and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the country had put the hardest part of the reform drive behind it.

"Reforms have passed the most difficult part and the groundwork has been laid for a breakthrough towards financial stabilisation," Mr. Chernomyrdin told a government meeting.

The time for "shock therapy" was over but further work was needed to guarantee economic success.

President Boris Yeltsin, speaking at the same meeting, said Russia needed a new type of state management of the economy.

"Any return to the centralised planning of the past is absolutely ruled out and doomed to failure," he said.

Consumer prices have risen by at least 20 per cent a month for much of this year but Mr. Chernomyrdin said inflation was likely to slow to 15 or 17 per cent by early 1994 and to 10 per cent by the end of March.

By the end of 1994 monthly inflation could be five per cent.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, viewed as a moderate member of Mr. Yeltsin's government team, said Russia's economy was starting to model itself on a Western market. "It is a learning market, one which is changing all the time," he said.

Outlining economic priorities for the coming years, Mr. Chernomyrdin said Russia needed to stabilise the export of raw materials and increase industrial exports.

Figures released at the government meeting showed that exports were flat in the first nine months of the year, although imports halved due to a shortage of convertible currency.

Russia expected a trade surplus of \$21.1 billion this year, well above the 1992 surplus of \$3.1 billion.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said Russia also needed to work out how to settle debts with its international creditors and receive money owed to it from the Soviet era — most of it from former Third World allies and one-time members of the Communist Bloc.

He repeated government demands for free access to world markets, a key Russian policy aim as it tries to transform its centrally planned economy into a Western-style free market.

"A market outline is clearly emerging in the Russian economy," he said, adding that the coming year would be critical as far as unemployment was concerned.

Unemployment remains low by world standards, although several international organisations expect it to rise once laws on company bankruptcy begin to take effect.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said Russia expected a budget deficit of 17 trillion rubles (\$14 billion) this year, including 5.5 trillion (\$4.66 billion) in the fourth quarter. The 1993 gap is equivalent to about 10 per cent of gross national product.

The figure is well below a shortfall of 24 trillion rubles (\$20 billion) proposed by parliament before Mr. Yeltsin disbanded the legislature in September.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said 4.5 trillion rubles (\$3.8 billion) of the fourth-quarter deficit would be funded from central bank loans. The government was selling bonds to raise the remaining one trillion rubles (\$850 million).

The size of the 1993 budget deficit was one of the main

points of conflict between the Russian government and the legislature. The government said parliament's spending plans had put economic reforms in jeopardy.

Meanwhile, bankers have said that several Western-funded projects in Russia may be put on hold after the government tightened up control over the use of foreign credits to keep a lid on \$80 billion debt.

"Not much foreign cash was flowing in already, but the signing of some big British-backed projects was due any time now," said a Moscow banker. "Now we understand that the government will not give the go-ahead to some of the projects because it wants stricter control over the use of foreign funds."

A new cabinet decree endorsed last week handed control over foreign loans from the economics to the finance ministry and its reformist head, Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov.

Deputy Finance Minister Andrei Kazmin told Reuters that firms or banks involved in Western-financed projects would now have to queue up for funds.

African group hopes internal trade will quadruple

KAMPALA (R) — The volume of trade between countries in eastern and southern Africa should rise as much as 400 per cent by the year 2000 thanks to a common market treaty approved by 18 states Monday, officials said Tuesday.

Heads of state from the 18 states, all the members of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), are expected to sign the treaty during a PTA summit in Kampala on Friday and Saturday.

The PTA was set up 11 years ago to stimulate trade within the region by gradually reducing tariff barriers.

But for the whole 11-year period the value of trade between PTA member states has averaged only six per cent of the value of their total trade.

The officials, speaking on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting which approved the treaty, said the aim of the common market was to raise this proportion to between 20 and 25 per cent by the end of the decade.

The 18 PTA members are Angola, Burundi, the Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

They have a total population

of about 270 million and the United Nations classified 13 of them among the world's least developed countries.

The ministers were meeting again Tuesday to make further preparations for the summit. They were expected to discuss Africa's debt problems and review economic reform programmes backed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

PTA Secretary-General Bingwa Mutharika told reporters on Monday evening that the new free trade group, to be known as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), was a key step towards an African common market by the year 2000.

The African common market by 2000 has been one of the longstanding aims of the Organisation of African Unity but few experts expect the continent will meet the target.

"This treaty encapsulates the experience in regional integration and points to a brighter future," Mr. Mutharika added.

He said political reform in states such as white-ruled South Africa, which is expected to join the group once a democratic government there is in place, would open up the market to greater participation by the private sector.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Two Moon trines to Saturn and Jupiter and Venus trine Saturn will provide you with ample opportunity today to show those whom you are truly fond of your friendly feelings. Then you can do those things that you most like with family at home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be more straightforward in letting outsiders know of your friendly feelings.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Think out the policies under which you wish to operate in both personal and expansive directions, then later you will be able to use them in outside world.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

You can impress business persons with your charm and practical expertise while in the evening you are able to get new ideas to round out these ideas.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

This is the morning to meet with partners to decide joint ventures, how best to operate them and tonight get into specifics on how this can be done.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

You have many good ideas for making environment more as would like it to be before you meet with outsiders to expand practical goals.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Put some extra pizzazz into whatever your special talent happens to be then you can get into very down to earth tasks facing your attention.

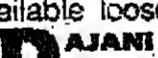
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21)

You are able early in

BIRTHSTONES FOR NOVEMBER

TOPAZ - TIGER EYE

Available loose or in gold at:



Arira Hotel
6th Circle

THE Daily Crossword



JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No. 20

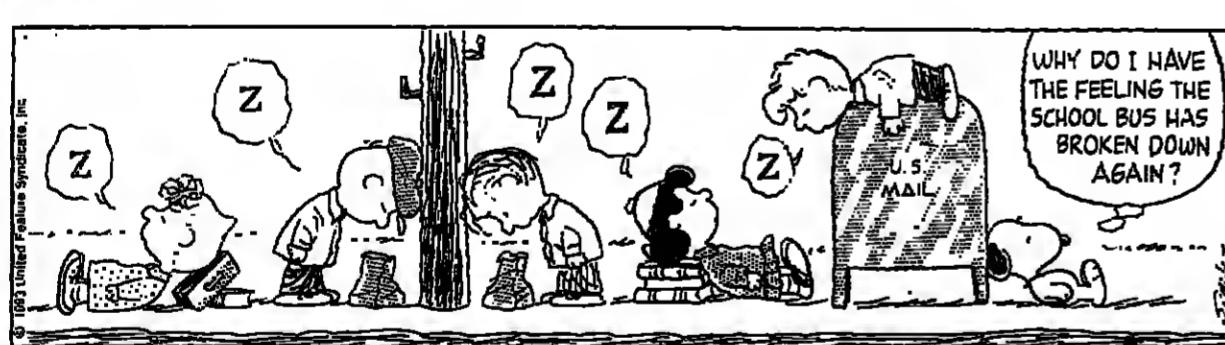


Drawing of November 2, 1993

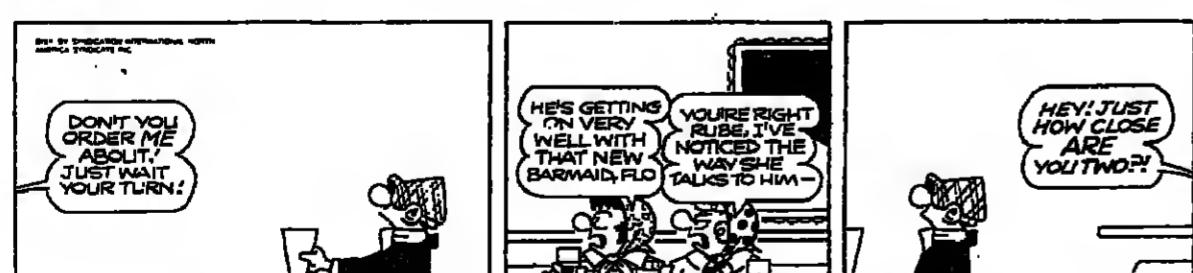
Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 42201 B Wins JD 40,000	Holder of ticket No. 42201 A Wins JD 10,000	Holder of ticket No. 41038 A B Wins JD 6,000
42201	42201	41038
Holder of ticket No. 50424 A B Wins JD 4,000	Holder of ticket No. 34337 A B Wins JD 3,000	Holder of ticket No. 21540 A B Wins JD 2,500
50424	34337	21540
Holder of ticket No. 31329 A B Wins JD 1,500	Holder of ticket No. 17983 A B Wins JD 1,000	Holder of ticket No. 41371 A B Wins JD 800
31329	17983	41371
Ticket numbers 37345 472141 A B Win JD 400 each	Ticket numbers 46373 38038 A B Win JD 200 each	
TICKETS ENDING WITH		
2221 3475 A B Win JD 100 each	3165 2356 A B Win JD 55 each	
706 A B Win JD 15 each	10,000 ticket ending with A B Win JD 3 each	
COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS		
48 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 851 905 661 212 A B Win JD 10		
Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 19 of October 17, 1993		
Abdul Jaber Mohd Dentist - Cawnpore Hut Fst JD 15,000	Mohd Khery Armenian Dentist Hut Fst JD 15,000	Amir C Armenian Dentist Full Second JD 2,000
Ahmed Sultan Armenian Dentist Hut Fst JD 7,000	Naser Abu Nusair Armenian Dentist Hut Fst JD 7,000	Asif Majeed Armenian Dentist Hut Fst JD 5,000
Fadi Jackson Armenian Dentist Hut Fst JD 5,000		
Next Draw takes place on November 17, 1993. First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters		

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MEERY			
DISTA			
SKENIC			
TIXECE			

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CASTE FLAKE TROPHY OVERDO POCKETS

Answer: It's against the law to pick them in parks.

(Answers tomorrow)

POCKETS

Answer: It's against the law to pick them in parks.

(Answers tomorrow)

POCKETS

Answer: It's against the law to pick them in parks.

(Answers tomorrow)

POCKETS

Answer: It's against the law to pick them in parks.

(Answers tomorrow)

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(Answers tomorrow)

POCKETS

Answer: It's against the law to pick them in parks.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
MAKING DUE CERTIFICATES - AMMAN - JORDANIA						
TELEPHONE: 06/42178						
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 02/11/1993						
	TRADED	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING	PRICE	PRICE
COMPANY'S NAME	20	20	20	20	20	20
JORDAN BANK	141,250	161,320	161,500	180,500		
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	11,480	11,520	11,520	11,520		
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2,309	1,950	1,950	1,940		
JORDAN ECONOMIC BANK	20,741	1,950	1,950	4,000		
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	20,702	3,550	3,550	3,550		
JORDAN TRAVEL BANK	12,426	3,120	3,120	3,100		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	1,207	3,250	3,250	3,250		
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,152	6,320	6,350	6,350		
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION/JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	11,480	1,950	1,950	1,780		
JORDAN INSURANCE	2,688	2,450	2,450	2,450		
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	3,070	3,150	3,150	3,150		
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	299	4,600	4,600	4,600		
ARMED FORCES INSURANCE	1,171	2,450	2,450	2,450		
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	304	2,150	2,150	2,150		
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS	20,702	6,700	6,950	6,950		
JORDAN TOURISM & HOTELS	142	1,220	1,280	1,280		
JORDAN PETROLEUM & INDUSTRIES	12,288	4,800	4,850	4,850		
JORDAN INVESTMENT HOLDINGS	1,027	3,970	3,950	3,950		
JORDAN INVESTMENT HOLDING CENTER	1,106	1,450	1,450	1,420		
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONFERENCE HOTELS	87,143	15,440	18,210	15,450		
JOHNSON FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	18,175	3,450	3,450	3,450		
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS	4,428	2,670	2,680	2,680		
JORDAN WOODWORK INDUSTRIES	19,528	3,030	3,150	3,020		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICALS	4,600	2,350	2,300	2,300		
JORDAN PLASTIC & METAL FIBERS	10,484	10,040	10,050	10,050		
JORDAN FOREST PRODUCTS	36,876	1,120	1,100	1,100		
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	224	2,150	2,140	2,140		
JORDAN PLASTIC & METAL FIBERS	5,720	2,100	2,100	2,100		
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1,158	2,300	2,300	2,300		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & MANAGEMENT	10,732	16,000	16,100	16,000		
JORDAN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES	18,175	2,400	2,400	2,400		
NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION	1,950	0,410	0,390	0,390		
JORDAN WOODWORK INDUSTRIES	4,600	2,350	2,300	2,300		
JORDAN PLASTIC & METAL FIBERS	30,008	1,070	1,090	1,120		
JORDAN FOREST PRODUCTS	14,569	8,280	8,280	8,280		
JORDAN PLASTIC & METAL FIBERS	813	2,170	2,250	2,250		
JORDAN PLASTIC & METAL FIBERS	26,660	3,850	3,850	3,850		
UNIVERSITY HOURS THOUGHTS	3,818	3,650	3,650	3,650		
	36,360	9,500	9,500	9,500		
GROSS TOTAL	729,704					
SO. OF TRADED SECURITIES IN PARALLEL MARKET	38920					
TRADE VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET / JD	61189					

Financial Markets Jordan Times
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close
Sterling Pound	Date: 2/11/93 1,4620
Deutsche Mark	1,6957
Swiss Franc	1,5024
French Franc	5,9310
Japanese Yen	108,21
European Currency Unit	1,1280
USD per SGD	Date: 2/11/93

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 2/11/1993						
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	3,06	3,57	3,25	3,62		
Sterling Pound	5,61	5,56	5,56	5,57		
Deutsche Mark	6,56	6,43	6,12	5,68		
Swiss Franc	4,56	4,62	4,12	4,06		
French Franc	6,81	6,62	6,33	5,85		
Japanese Yen	2,35	2,25	2,18	2,12		
European Currency Unit	7,21	7,18	6,68	6,51		

Precious Metals Date: 2/11/1993						
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	
Gold	362,15	7,20	Silver	4,19	0,100	
24 karat						

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 2/11/1993

Currency Bid Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0,7000	0,7020
Sterling Pound	1,0554	1,0406
Deutsche Mark	0,4126	0,4147
Swiss Franc	0,4656	0,4679
French Franc	0,1150	0,1166
Japanese Yen	0,6465	0,6495
Dutch Guilder	0,3675	0,3693
English Pound	0,0000	0,0000
Italian Lira	0,0424	0,0426
Belgian Franc	0,0000	0,0000
Airline	0,0000	0,0000

Other Currencies Date: 2/11/1993

Currency Bid Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1,5305	1,5600
Iraqi Dinar	0,040255	0,041345
Saudi Riyal	0,1563	0,1590
Kuwaiti Dinar	2,2240	2,3000
Qatari Riyal	0,1890	0,1920
Egyptian Pound	0,2350	0,2220
Oman Riyal	1,7290	1,8270
UAE Dirham	0,1890	0,1920
Greek Drachma	1,2815	1,3075
Cypriot Pound	1,3300	1,3820
Airline	0,0000	0,0000

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3100/10	Canadian dollar
	1,6979/89	Deutschmarks
	1,4050/60	Dutch guilders
	1,5033/43	Swiss francs
	36,6973	Belgian francs
	5,9245/45	French francs
	1647 13/16	Italian lire
	108,11/12	Japanese yen
	8,1779/87	Swedish crowns
	7,3805/05	Norwegian crowns
	6,7955/55	Danish crowns
	\$1,4801/10	
One morning	\$1,4515/56/95	
One evening		

Government finances study to privatise Royal Jordanian

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A study on options available to the government to privatising the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), is going ahead after the government decided to finance the study from the treasury, sources said Tuesday.

The contract for the study has been awarded to a British firm, KPMG Peat Management Consultants, under a decision adopted several weeks ago, but the actual launch of work was delayed pending the financing arrangement, the sources told the Jordan Times.

The broad outline of a proposal made by the study involves a gradual process of privatisation, starting with some of the company's local creditors — such as the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Social Security Corpora-

India issues hijack alert over Kashmir siege

SRINAGAR, India (R) — India issued a hijack alert Tuesday, saying Kashmiri separatists might seize an airliner to push for an end to an army siege of the Himalayan region's holiest Islamic shrine.

"We have sounded a hijack alert because we have information that the militants want to strike in other areas to pressure us on the shrine issue," Kashmir Police Chief Mahendra Sabherwal told Reuters.

He did not say what information had prompted the alert, issued on the 19th day of the siege of the Hazratbal Mosque in Srinagar, summer capital of largely Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

Up to 150 people, including armed separatists, are holed up in the shrine.

An Indian Airlines pilot flying to Srinagar Tuesday said he had received the alert after landing at Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Passengers from Delhi were told to get off the plane in Jammu, frisked and asked to identify their luggage before being allowed back on board.

The pilot said he was told to fly the second leg to Srinagar with the cockpit door locked from take-off to landing.

There has been only one hijacking in India connected to the rebellion in the Kashmir Valley since it began in January 1990.

A Kashmiri militant hijacked an Indian Airlines flight to Srinagar in April. The plane landed at the Punjab city of

Amritsar near the border with Pakistan and was stormed by paramilitary commandos.

The hijacker, who had demanded to be flown to Afghanistan, was killed in the assault, police said. Passengers said they believed he was captured alive and killed on the tarmac.

The siege of the mosque, revered by Kashmiri Muslims for the hair of the Prophet Mohammad they believe it contains, has aroused more anti-Indian ire in the valley, where support for the revolt is considerable.

On Oct. 22, Indian security forces killed around 50 people protesting against the siege and many people have observed a general strike since it began at midnight on Oct. 15.

Government spokesman Mehmood Ur Rehman told reporters Tuesday that government negotiators had held another round of talks with the militants, but gave no indications of progress.

He said a doctor was allowed through the army cordon Tuesday morning to treat ailing people inside Hazratbal.

Meanwhile, the United States assured India Tuesday that its policy toward Kashmir has not changed, hoping to re-assure Indian anger over remarks by a senior State Department official.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Brill responded to Indian Foreign Secretary Jyotiendra Nath Dixit on last week's protest over a comment questioning the legal basis for India's claim to the Himalayan

territory.

Mr. Brill met Mr. Dixit Tuesday to explain the U.S. position, Foreign Office spokesman Shiv Shanker Mukherjee said. But he did not give any details of what Mr. Brill said.

A meeting in Washington between the Indian ambassador in the United States, Siddhartha Shanker Ray, and a top State Department official was being arranged, Mr. Mukherjee said.

In a background briefing not intended for quotation, assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphael said Friday that Washington did not see the 1947 accession to India by Kashmir's Hindu ruler as meaning "that Kashmir is forever an integral part of India."

India protested that the United States had adopted "a studied tilt" toward Pakistan.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, at an election rally Monday, said Kashmir is India's "and no force on Earth can take it away from us."

Pakistan, which has fought two wars with India over Kashmir, says the people there should be allowed to determine their own future by referendum. Kashmir is the only state in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority.

On Monday, Mr. Brill sent a message to the Indian Foreign Ministry, but its contents weren't disclosed. U.S. officials said it affirmed U.S. policy that Kashmir is a disputed territory and should be negotiated by a senior State Department official.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Brill responded to Indian Foreign Secretary Jyotiendra Nath Dixit on last week's protest over a comment questioning the legal basis for India's claim to the Himalayan



Rescue workers Tuesday remove the body of a victim from the wreckage of a train collision in Depok, a suburb of Jakarta, Indonesia (AFP photo)

35 killed in Indonesian train crash

DEPOK, Indonesia (R) — Two passenger trains collided on a single track near the Indonesian capital of Jakarta in the morning rush hour Tuesday and at least 35 people were killed.

Police initially put the death toll at 11 but said the figure could be higher.

It was one of Indonesia's worst train accidents since 150 people were killed near Jakarta in a similar collision in 1987.

"This is the first collision we have had between electric trains," a Transport Ministry official said. The cause of the crash was not immediately clear.

Both hospitals in Depok were reported to be overflowing with injured, many forced to lie in corridors and outside.

The two electric trains, one of them travelling at about 60 kph (40 mph), collided near Depok, a small town midway between Jakarta and Bogor, at the height of the rush hour.

Police initially put the death toll at 11 but said the figure could be higher.

Hundreds of onlookers hampered sweat-soaked rescue workers, including civilians, as they laboured within sight of the picturesque Pancak Hills covered with tea plantations.

The front carriages of one of the trains, from Jakarta, were thrown into the air and lay on top of battered carriages of the train travelling to the capital from Bogor.

Witnesses said many passengers were injured when they jumped from the suspended carriages into nearby gardens.

Bogor is linked to Jakarta, a city of more than 10 million people, by a six-lane road as well as by a single track railway to Depok that becomes dual-track after the town.

Croats force thousands to flee in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Croat and Muslim forces battled in central Bosnia Tuesday, forcing thousands of terrified civilians to flee rampaging militias and some to take refuge with U.N. peacekeepers in the area.

The Swedish U.N. battalion in Croat-held Vares evacuated Tuesday morning about 50 of the 93 Muslims who took shelter overnight in a sawmill next to the Swedish base after being driven out of their homes by Croat gunmen.

Nearly 200 Muslim women and children spent the night huddled in freezing temperatures on the pavement and guarded by U.N.-armoured vehicles. U.N. sources said.

They built fires to keep warm and woke up Tuesday morning to mortar fire echoing in the hills above where Muslim forces were pressing on their week-old advance against the Croat stronghold.

Hardline elements of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) took control of Vares on Oct. 23 and arrested about 250 Muslim men, conducting a reign of terror against local Muslims.

Swedish soldiers say Croat gunmen, some wearing masks and others with camouflaged faces and military fatigues, have been looting Muslim houses and intimidating Muslim women and children every night for more than a week. On a looting spree, they raped at least one woman Monday night, eyewitnesses said.

"Many civilians are being terrorized in the area and are seeking our protection," said Captain Bjorn Borgvall, a Swedish medical officer on U.N. peacekeeping duty in Vares.

The U.N. Protection Force reported serious fighting in the Bihać pocket between Muslim-controlled government army forces loyal to President Alija Izetbegović and Muslim separatists led by maverick tycoon Fikret Abdić.

Bosnian state radio said Tuesday 79 soldiers loyal to Mr. Abdić surrendered Monday.

The radio said Muslim-controlled Jablanica in southwest Bosnia came under heavy Croat artillery attack Tuesday. In Geneva diplomats said Croatian officials and representatives of the Serb-held Krajina enclave have been holding secret peace talks in Norway this week.

They said the secret negotiations in a ceasefire in the disputed Krajina were expected to lead to a meeting in Oslo later this week between Croatian President Franjo Tuđman and Serbia's Slobodan Milošević.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Surundi premier emerges from hiding

BURUNDI (R) — Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi of Burundi, the top official since President Melchior Ndadaye was killed in a coup, emerged from 12 days in the French embassy Tuesday to hold talks with army chiefs. "She came out of the embassy guarded by about 20 French soldiers, who drove her to a nearby government guest house where she is holding talks with army commanders on the future of the country," one witness said. Ms. Kinigi and some ministers who survived the coup took refuge in the embassy at the time of the coup on Oct. 21. The coup triggered a new bout of tribal massacres between the majority Tutsi and the minority Tutsis. She had said she was afraid she would be killed if she came out of the embassy and had urged the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to send in about 1,000 troops to protect her and government members. On Monday the army rejected her call for foreign troops, saying this was against the constitution and public interest.

China, U.S. start improving ties

BEIJING (R) — China and the United States agreed Tuesday to improve their military relations, frozen since Beijing's army crushed pro-democracy protests in June 1989. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Chas Freeman, the most senior defense official to visit Beijing since the crackdown, hailed "a series of very productive meetings" and said Washington now saw China as a potential partner. He pointed to Chinese and U.S. troops working side-by-side in U.N. peacekeepers in world trouble spots in future. While U.S. sanctions on arms sales to China imposed after 1989 remain in effect, Mr. Freeman said a programme of military exchanges could now begin. "These exchanges and this dialogue are all designed to achieve mutual understanding and trust, so that the two militaries can contribute both to improving bilateral relations and achieving peace and stability in a number of troubled spots in the world," Mr. Freeman told a news conference. China welcomed Mr. Freeman's visit and improved military ties.

Olivetti chief taken to Rome jail

ROME (R) — Olivetti computer chief Carlo De Benedetti was taken to Rome's Regina Coeli Jail Tuesday after giving himself up on corruption charges, witnesses said. Police drove Mr. De Benedetti to Rome after he turned himself in before dawn at a police station in Milan. Magistrates are expected to question him over alleged corruption involving the state postal system. A white Lancia Delta Saloon carrying Mr. De Benedetti and his lawyer, flanked by two police cars, swept into the jail on the banks of the Tiber in central Rome. Lawyers had negotiated with magistrates over a long weekend holiday for All Saints' Day to ensure the Olivetti boss, the leading private sector industrialist caught up in Italy's huge corruption scandal, would be interrogated as soon as he gave himself up.

Over 1,000 pay last respects to Fellini

ROME (AFP) — Hundreds of people of all ages turned up on Tuesday morning at Cinecittà, in the Rome suburbs, to pay their last respects to the film-maker Federico Fellini, who died Sunday. The director's coffin was lying in state on a blue-draped piano in Studio Five, where the maestro shot many of his greatest films, temporarily transformed into a chapel of rest. Four guards, two of them Carabinieri with sabres, stood vigil at the four corners of the coffin, on which a giant wreath of red roses had been laid from his widow and wife of 50 years, the actress Giulietta Masina. Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi was one of the first to arrive when the studio opened its doors at 9:00 a.m. (0800 GMT). Other visitors included the young Sicilian director Giuseppe Tornatore (of *Cinema Paradiso*) and Giuseppe Fine, who worked on special effects for Fellini. "He was like a father," Fine said.

Autopsy on Phoenix 'inconclusive'

LOS ANGELES (R) — An autopsy conducted Monday on the body of actor River Phoenix failed to determine what caused him to collapse outside a popular nightclub, and officials said further tests for drugs would now be performed. As evidence mounted that drugs may have been a factor in the 23-year-old actor's mysterious death early Sunday, the Los Angeles County Coroner's office reported that the results of an autopsy were "inconclusive." Investigators said they would now undergo a complex battery of toxicological tests to examine the body's blood and tissue for a variety of drugs, a procedure expected to take six to eight weeks. Hollywood was stunned by the actor's death. Unlike many other twenty-something stars with bad-boy images, Phoenix — an Oscar nominee for his role in the 1988 movie *Running on Empty* — was considered a model of clean living.

den Eduard Shevardnadze, Interfax said.

Military sources quoted by Interfax said the fleet included a patrol boat, a mine-sweeper and four assault ships transporting marine infantry units.

The sea operation is part of a plan set out by Tbilisi with Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to restore and protect key rail links and other supply and communications lines from the Black Sea ports to the rest of the Caucasus region.

The deployment comes as Georgian government forces press on with efforts to crush the last pockets of resistance in western Georgia from rebels loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

The operation is being supervised directly by Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, who had a long telephone conversation last week with Georgian President

sakuridze followers and troops backing Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a former anti-Communist dissident who was Georgia's first popularly-elected president until being ousted by an armed revolt in January 1992, returned from exile late last month to his stronghold in the western town of Zugdidi.

His armed supporters then took advantage of disarray within government forces following their defeat in fighting against ethnic separatists in the neighbouring region of Abkhazia to launch an offensive aimed at toppling Mr. Shevardnadze.

Russian troops have already been deployed along the main rail lines between Poti and Tbilisi, and Armenia — which is dependent on the Black Sea ports for supplies — is to join the ground operation.

U.S. rejects new Haiti elections

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Monday rejected a call for new elections to end Haiti's political crisis but suggested exiled President Jean Bertrand Aristide might broaden his cabinet to widen his political support.

Although U.S. officials publicly said a total blockade of Haiti was an option if military rulers refused to cede power to Mr. Aristide, they privately expressed fears that such a move might prompt a new exodus of refugees to the United States.

So calls went out to a number of countries, including France, Britain, Switzerland and the Dominican Republic, urging them to follow the U.S. lead in freezing the assets and revoking the visas of the 40 or so principal figures in the resistance which the international community believes offers the best prospect for the restoration of democracy, and that's the step-by-step, fairly meticulously drawn process that was negotiated at Governors Island (in New York) last July, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

"All those proposals to us at the moment represent something other than the process which we believe and which the international community believes offers the best prospect for the restoration of democracy, and that's the step-by-step, fairly meticulously drawn process that was negotiated at Governors Island (in New York) last July, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

The United Nations insists the accord is applicable, and wants to hold new talks with an Aristide representative, Gen. Cedras and the presidents of the U.N.-backed accord he signed was dead unless both he and Mr. Aristide decided otherwise.

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Under the accord, Mr. Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 coup, was to return to power in Haiti last

weekend.

Meanwhile, hoping to salvage its plans for restoring democracy, the United Nations plans to convene new talks Wednesday, but Haiti's military broker — the army — isn't listening.

The military backed out of the deal that would have allowed Mr. Aristide to return to power last Saturday. Army Commander Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras even suggested the U.N.-backed accord he signed was dead unless both he and Mr. Aristide decided otherwise.

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Jackson, Gunnell named Athletes of the Year

LONDON (R) — British hurdlers Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell were named as International Athletes of the Year by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

Jackson broke the world 110 metres hurdles record at the Stuttgart World Championships in August while Gunnell sliced the world 400 metres hurdles mark at the same meeting.

Nouredine Morceli, who won his second consecutive world 1,500 title as well as breaking the world mile record, finished second in the men's poll ahead of Britain's world 100 metres champion



British athletes Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell show their International Amateur Athlete of the Year trophies for the top athletes of the year (AFP photo)

Linford Christie.

Gunnell headed China's world 3,000 metres and 10,000 metres record holder Wang Junxia, who won the World Cup marathon in San Sebasti-

n, Spain, Sunday.

American Gail Devers, who won both the 100 metres and 100 metres hurdles titles in Stuttgart, finished third.

The standings follow a poll of

Vintage Crop wins Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Irish galloper Vintage Crop, with 1993 English derby winning jockey Michael Kinane aboard, created history Tuesday by becoming the first horse trained in Europe to win Australia's \$1.3 million Melbourne Cup.

In a powerful burst on a rain-sodden track, the 14-1 Vintage Crop raced home three lengths clear of New Zealand's Te Akau Niek, a 160-1 outsider. Third was another long-shot from New Zealand, Mercator, at 120-1.

Favourite Al Pompeii, from New Zealand, at 5-1 finished 14th in the 3,200 metre race on which around \$45 million was wagered at government run betting shops around the country.

"It's a great day for the Irish," said Vintage Crop's trainer Dermott Weld. "I have dreams about winning this race, for a number of years but I never thought I could achieve it."

"When I was young I read Banjo Paterson (Australian writer of The Man From Snowy River) and Australia was always in my heart," Weld said in accepting the winner's trophy.

The victory earned Irish owner Dr. M. W. Smurfit \$50,000.

In accepting the trophy, Tony Smurfit said Vintage Crop's win had elevated the race to a truly international status.

"This is very much like a dream for us to win such a prestigious and valuable race and a race that means so much to Australia and now ... the world," Smurfit said.

"This will become a race that every single decent stayer in Europe will want to come down and contest and try and emulate what we have done."

Smurfit said the Melbourne Cup would become an even harder race to win in the future as increased competition from the northern hemisphere follows Vintage Crop's success.

Kinane said he was confident of winning the race once he pulled Vintage Crop wide of the field in the final straight.

Kinane, who rides half the year in Ireland and Europe and the rest of the time in Hong Kong, positioned the seven-

year-old gelding in the first half of the crowded 24-horse field for most of the race.

Riding shoulder to shoulder with the other European challenger, English stayer Drum Taps, Kinane pulled wide with 200 metres to go to the finishing post.

"Once I got in front I knew I could win," said Kinane after his first ride at the Flemington Racecourse.

"This rally is an international event," he added.

Weld said he was pleased with Kinane's ride, especially because of the wet track and with Vintage Crop's performance as he had dropped a lot of weight in travelling to Australia.

"I was quietly confident. When the two inches of rain fell last night, I was concerned," Weld said. "The horse did lose seven kilos in travelling out here. But he did put it back on and on Sunday morning when he trained, I was pleased with him. Drum Taps finished ninth."

Breeders' Cup picks

Meanwhile, in Arcadia, California, trainers left out of next Saturday's Breeders' Cup horse races are doing some mild grumbling about the selection committee's choices.

In every over-subscribed Breeders' Cup race, the top points earners are automatic starters and the remaining six starters are selected by the committee.

Thus, in the always-congested \$1 million sprint, the committee had to make some hard choices in selecting Gilded Time, Thirty Slew, Gold Spring, Catrill, Sayyadi and Surprise Offer.

Gilded Time, the 1992 juvenile champion, looked impressive winning his last race — but that was more than a year ago.

The committee also gave last year's sprint champion, Thirty Slew, a starting spot despite the fact that the 7-year-old is winless in three starts this year.

Perhaps the toughest call was the selection of Surprise Offer, a 3-year-old British runner, over 5-year-old French warhorse Monde Bleu, who is owned by Daniel Wildenstein.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

#AQ104 ♠AQ 1093 072 ♦AJ5

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♦ 1 ♣ 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

#AJ104 ♠AQ7652 07 ♦AK87

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♦ 1 ♣ 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

#QT2 ♠Q5 1083 ♦AJ107

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♦ Dbl ?

What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Monde Bleu is the first alternate and would draw in should any of the 14 drop out.

"Obviously the committee thought the English horses were stronger than the French horses," Alec Wildenstein, who oversees his father's stable, said Sunday.

"It's disappointing, but you can't do anything about it. We've been coming to the Breeders' Cup since the first one, and we accept their decision."

Gilded Time, who is owned by television producer David Milch, suffered a minor foot injury in a workout late last year, and was given several months off to recuperate. He was put back into training in August.

"He has the back class to win it, that's for sure," said the colt's trainer, Darrell Vienna. "He's a bigger, stronger guy than he was last year. I'm just hoping he can hold his own with these other bad boys."

Thirty Slew sizzled six-furlongs last week in 1:11 during morning workouts. The Big Grey gelding blazed three furlongs in :34 and five furlongs in 57.45.

"Awesome" shouted his trainer, Bob Baffert. "That's exactly how he worked before last year's sprint."

With 25 horses pre-entered for a race in which there are only 14 starters, it was inevitable.

Australians confident of causing Argentine upset

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia has grown in confidence and believes it can defeat two-time finalist Argentina in the teams' second-leg World Cup soccer qualifying match, Australian coach Eddie Thomson said Tuesday.

Australia and Argentina played to a 1-1 draw in the first leg game in Sydney Sunday night. The second game will be played on Nov. 17 in Buenos Aires, with the winner on aggregate advancing to the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

"You are always a bit worried Argentina can give you a bit of a spanking and could run away with the game, but having played against them I'm certainly more confident for the second game than I was before the first," said Thomson.

Thomson said he definitely would retain all three central defenders for the second leg game at the River Plate Stadium.

Thomson and 13 members of

bis squad left Tuesday for Chile, where they will be based until three days before the game in Buenos Aires.

European-based members of the Australian squad will link up with their teammates the week before the match.

Thomson said he planned to make only one change to the team, with striker Frank Farina returning after suspension, probably at the expense of defender.

"I can leave a fullback out and play an extra midfielder," the Scottish-born coach said.

"We've got a lot of options because Robbie Slater and Farina can play two or three positions and Jason Van Blenk can play a couple of positions."

Thomson said he definitely would retain all three central defenders for the second leg game at the River Plate Stadium.

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German village appeals to U.S. luge team not to pull out of meet

BONN (AP) — An east German village where neo-Nazi skinheads beat up an American luge racer appealed to the U.S. luge team not to pull out of a World Cup meet in January.

"There could be nothing worse for us than a boycott," said Hartmut Goebel, mayor of Oberhof, the winter sports capital of former East Germany.

Oberhof has not been spared the economic troubles afflicting all of eastern Germany, and Mr. Goebel worries that tourists could be frightened off en masse if the Americans boycott his village.

Oberhof has not been spared the economic troubles afflicting all of eastern Germany, and Mr. Goebel worries that tourists could be frightened off en masse if the Americans boycott his village.

The Friday night beating of Duncan Kennedy at an Oberhof bar by about 15 youths shocked American athletes and embarrassed Germany.

The neo-Nazi outrage was front-page news in most of Germany's major newspapers and an issue for editorial writers to worry about.

The Berliner Zeitung called it a "shameful act" that is "disastrous for Germany's image in the USA."

One politician said the attack proves that current laws aren't tough enough to deter violent neo-Nazis, who have carried out more than 1,500 attacks this year.

Erwin Marschewski, in an interview with the Berliner Zeitung, called for a law that

would let police use preventive detention to discourage radicals from carrying out attacks.

"This regrettable incident shows that our legal system is in urgent need of renovation," said Marschewski, law-and-order specialist for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party, the Christian Democratic Union.

Five suspects were detained after Kennedy identified three of them.

Four were later freed. Heinrich Nebel, chief prosecutor in the case, said there was insufficient evidence to hold them but they still might be charged.

"I am really distressed that the prosecutor's office let them go," Mr. Goebel said in a telephone interview from Oberhof.

Mr. Goebel said the fanatics who beat up Kennedy were known right-wing radicals from the nearby city of Suhl. "Our youths have never stirred up trouble like this," he said.

Mr. Goebel said his village has no police force, but a police officer from nearby Suhl

would now be permanently stationed in Oberhof.

Officials of the U.S. Luge Association said Sunday they may have to pull out of a Jan. 14-16 World Cup meet slated in Oberhof if its athletes don't feel safe there.

Mr. Goebel appealed to the association not to give up on his town of 2,500, nestled in the southwest corner of former east Germany, about 240 kilometers from Berlin.

"I can guarantee that this kind of thing will not happen again," said Mr. Goebel.

The U.S. luge team had come to train at Oberhof, a favorite of international bobsled and luge competitors.

Leroy T. Walker, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said Sunday the committee should pay more attention to the places it sends people, not just to the tracks and courts.

"We look at the training facilities, but people don't spend all their time training," he said. "People go out in the towns, and maybe this is something we don't do enough of."

Lendl blown off course at Paris Open

PARIS (AP) — Ivan Lendl, the oldest player at the \$2.16 million Paris Open, failed to survive the first round Tuesday.

The 33-year-old Czech-born American was bundled out of the world's richest non-Grand Slam event by big-hitting compatriot David Wheaton who romped to a 6-3, 7-5 win.

The maintenance staff eventually appeared and swept it clean while the ball boys lent a hand removing servers' sawdust from the baseline.

On the number-one court, 28-year-old Australian left-hander Mark Woodforde finally beat Byron Black of Zimbabwe.

Black, a qualifier and currently ranked 83rd, had beaten Woodforde in both of their previous encounters.

The experienced Woodforde, better known as a doubles player but who has risen to his highest-ever singles ranking of 25, won 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. He now plays 16th-seeded David Cup teammate Wally Masur.

He hit five double-faults and managed to put only half his first serves in court.

Lendl, who turned professional in 1978 but who is determined to play on for at least another year, says he still thinks he can win one more grand Slam title.

He won his first tournament for six months at Tokyo three weeks ago.

Wheaton, who looked in sharp form having dropped only one set in qualifying, dominated the rallies and kept Lendl under pressure with his powerful and deadly accurate groundstrokes.

The match started half-an-hour late.

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Ghanaians flee Ivorian attacks after match

ABIDJAN (R) — Ghanaians took refuge at their ambassador's residence Tuesday after riots which killed at least four Ghanaians and injured several hundred. Ivorian vigilantes, roaming the streets, threatened further attacks.

Enraged by attacks on Ivorian football supporters in neighbouring Ghana, gangs of youths roamed poor neighbourhoods in Abidjan and provincial towns, searching for Ghanaians who had not fled and seeking booty in the homes of those who had.

Algeria says 28 killed after confusing kidnap episode

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces have killed 28 Muslim fundamentalists in the past 72 hours, official sources said on Tuesday.

In the mountainous Djebel Bouzegza area, near the coastal town of Boumerdes east of Algiers, on Sunday night and Monday morning, 17 were shot dead, security sources said.

They were trapped after local citizens tipped off the security forces, they added.

"Among the terrorists killed, two were identified as Djamel Bougourzi, wanted under three arrest warrants ... for killing, theft and arson, and Ali Guenouna, also the subject of an arrest warrant," the official news agency AFP said.

Algeria uses the term "terrorist" for Muslim fundamentalists fighting the security forces. More than 1,500 people have been killed in political violence in less than two years.

Another four activists hiding in a grotto in Salah Bey near the western city of Constantine were killed at the weekend, the

sources said. Automatic pistols, a shotgun, and crude bombs were recovered from the bodies.

Security forces killed three more in the same area on Sunday night.

In Bouira, 90 kilometres southeast of Algiers, security forces shot dead two more on Monday after a chase in which a policeman was wounded.

Another man was killed in Blida province, south of the capital, at 6:30 a.m. on Monday and a sawn-off shotgun retrieved from his body.

Meanwhile, an Algerian interior ministry communiqué, giving the first official version of the release of three French hostages at the weekend, said four kidnappers were killed but gave few details about the circumstances.

In a statement appearing in the Algerian press Tuesday, the ministry did not identify the group which seized the French consul employees nor did it say where the releases took place.

The statement said nine kid-

nappers were involved, but they were designated as "kidnappers" and "criminals" rather than "terrorists."

The ministry said four of the nine were still being sought. Two, identified as Ahmad Mourad, 29, and Djahri Rachid, 28, have been sentenced to death in absentia by a special court for "terrorism" and "subversion" while two others, Guezzir Mohammad, 24, and Beratta Aissa, 34, were being sought for "various killings."

One of the group was known by his nom de guerre, Djiasfar Al Afghani, an indication he had fought with Islamic volunteers in the war in Afghanistan, according to the ministry.

The ministry said that following their kidnapping on Sunday, Oct. 24, the three French were taken together to the same village, Oued Slama, some 20 kilometres south of Algiers, where they were held in a villa surrounded by a wall.

But it gave no details about a second detention area.



REALITY OF PRESENCE: Israeli soldiers check from the Gaza Strip and not just a redeployment. PLO delegates accused Israel of wanting to carve up the strip into a "series of islands" (AFP photo).

Jordan to table new proposals on arms

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will take part in a two-day meeting of multilateral working group on Middle East arms control and regional security which starts in Moscow today.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be headed by Abdullah Touqan, His Majesty King Hussein's scientific advisor.

In a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Dr. Touqan said Jordan would present to the meeting new proposals aimed at preempting conflicts in the region, ensuring a safe future for people in the Middle East and enabling future generations to live in peace and security.

Dr. Touqan said although the cold war and Gulf war had ended, prospects for establishing genuine peace in the region were becoming harder in light of the acceleration of international and regional events and conflict.

This, he said, calls for the creation of a "comprehensive formula for regional security cooperation, which will in turn contribute to ensuring economic, political and psychological security."

The Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace talks signed September within the framework of the bilateral Arab-Israel peace talks is a step towards establishing a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region, he said. "Any threat to the security and stability in the Middle East will shake the very foundations of the peace process and reflect on trade and economic development in the region," Dr. Touqan said. "This in turn will affect the progress towards democratisation and human rights."

Dr. Touqan said the continuous race for the acquisition of arms at the expense of natural resources would lead to economic decline and deprivation, causing great imbalance.

He noted that military cuts and the resulting savings could correct such imbalances and achieve economic development.

He stressed Jordan's firm position towards removal of arms of massive destruction. "Jordan believes that such an issue should rank high on the agenda," he said.

"Jordan is a strong supporter of turning the Middle East into an area free from weapons of massive destruction."

Dr. Touqan said Jordan seeks to foster dialogue and exchange of information,

COLUMN

Thai king translates spy biography

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej had translated the World War II spy biography "A Man Called Interpid" into Thai. His Majesty the King spared his free time from 1977 to 1980 to translate this book. Sarmart Reungnarong, senior editor of the Amarin Printing and Publishing Company, which is publishing the book, told reporters. The 648-page Thai version of the book by William Stevenson — "Nai Intra Phoophithong Phra," or "Mr. Intra, The Man Who Puts The Gold Leaves At The Back Of The Buddha Image" — will be on sale during the king's birthday for the benefit of an educational charity.

Washington children plan own funerals

WASHINGTON (R) — Children in the high-murder neighbourhoods of Washington have started planning their own funerals, the Washington Post reported. "I think my prom dress is going to be the prettiest dress of all," the newspaper quoted 11-year-old Jessica Bradford as saying in a front-page story. "When I die, I want to be dressed for my family." Howard Reed, 15, a ninth-grader who attends a local junior high school, said he wants a funeral "different from everybody else's." And eighth grader Alicia Brown, 14, said she prays to make it through each day. "One friend got killed and he was just riding a bike," she said. "I figure the bullet could have hit me. Sometimes I picture my funeral, because when I go to a friend's funeral, I picture myself. Washington Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly recently asked President Bill Clinton to authorise National Guard troops in the high-murder neighbourhoods, acknowledging the police had been unable to slow down the murder rate in the city of 600,000, which runs more than one murder a day. The request was denied.

Wage restraint? Not us, say economic boffins

SEOUL (R) — More than 1,000 research fellows at South Korea's state economic think-tanks went on a one-day strike Tuesday, denouncing the government's low-wage policy which they helped to formulate. A spokesman for the umbrella Korean Federation of Professional and Technicians' Unions (KFPTU) said wage negotiators had broken down. "The government is using us as a scapegoat for its tight wage policy. We cannot stand it any longer," said KFPTU spokesman Kim Chul-woon during a rally in central Seoul to highlight their plight. He said wage increases at economic institutes had been limited to less than five per cent a year on average over the past five years, compared with double-digit increases in industry as a whole. The government's economic planning board (EPB) uses the data collected by the think-tanks to set guidelines for wage rises, but the targets are applied more stringently for government employees than for the private sector.

Washington priest found culpable

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — A federal jury in Little Rock Monday ordered a Roman Catholic priest to pay \$1.5 million to a woman he allegedly molested more than decade ago. The Reverend Timothy Sugrue, 58, who is now the business manager of the Marist Order's Washington, D.C. Province and a member of the Provincial Council, was an air force chaplain during the 1970s at Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas. The plainoff, Kimberly Phillips, 23, was seven years old when the priest allegedly began fondling her. She said Rev. Sugrue had also enticed her to engage in sexual intercourse. "I'm just glad the trial is over," said Ms. Phillips, whose sister, Ann-Marie Phillips, 24, testified that Rev. Sugrue also molested her. At the time of the alleged incidents, the Phillips sisters were military dependents at Eaker. Ms. Phillips and her sister testified that their memories of the molestation emerged only following psychotherapy they sought for personal problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat confers with Hassan II

RABAT (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat conferred during the night with King Hassan of Morocco, whom he has asked to help obtain the release of 336 million in Palestinian assets frozen by Gulf states during the Gulf war. Mr. Arafat's talks with the king were attended by PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abd Rabbo and Hani Al Hassan of Fatah's Central Committee, the official news agency MAP reported. The agency gave no details of the talks, but on his arrival in Rabat on Monday Mr. Arafat said he would consult the king about implementing the peace accord signed with Israel in September and the results of related talks in Cairo and Taba. Mr. Arafat left later to return to Tunis.

Pullout cost \$170m — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army pullout from the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho will cost \$170 million, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Tuesday. Much of the cost will go towards providing new security measures for the Jewish settlements that remain in the areas gaining Palestinian autonomy. Mr. Rabin said in Bitahan, the defence ministry's monthly newsletter, "New roads will also be built in numerous areas, to bypass Palestinian built-up areas," added Mr. Rabin, who is also Israel's defence minister. "In the longer term we will also move the army command centres from towns on the West Bank," he said in the newsletter.

Yemeni plane crashes

ADEN (AFP) — A Soviet-made Sukhoi bomber of the Yemeni air force crashed on a training flight Tuesday but its pilot ejected and escaped with minor injuries, witnesses said. The plane exploded as it hit the ground at Al Hiswa, 13 kilometres from the southern port city of Aden, they said. The pilot was named as Squadron Leader Qaysi Hassan Ali. Two Yemeni pilots were killed in August when their Soviet-made MiG-21 fighters crashed into the Red sea.

Court links Iran to kidning

PARIS (R) — A French magistrate has linked Iran's secret service to the 1991 murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar and his secretary near Paris, justice sources said on Tuesday. Jean-Louis Brugiere, France's foremost "anti-terrorism" magistrate, established the ties in an inquiry whose results he presented on Tuesday to the state prosecutor's office, the sources told reporters. The prosecutor will use the report to prepare for a trial of three men held in French jails in connection with the killings. A woman who was also charged in the case but released on bail is also to stand trial. No date has been set for the trial.

Iraqi paper attacks Charles

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi newspaper Tuesday described Britain's Prince Charles as a "notorious playboy" well known in "whorehouses throughout Europe." The article in the daily Babel heaped scorn on comments by the heir to the British throne last Wednesday in which he attacked President Saddam Hussein for "unmentionable horrors" against the people of southern Iraq. Babel accused the prince of "lies and tear-shedding over virtuous values, sublime morals and human rights," according to excerpts of the article carried by the state-run Iraqi News Agency. The newspaper expressed "surprise and consternation that a notorious playboy well known in the cellars of the night and in whorehouses throughout Europe should suddenly become a preacher of sublime values. Picture Charles... shedding tears for the Iraqis while he himself is sinking deep in adultery and family intrigues and while the British papers are publishing a long and endless series of scandals connected with Charles' dissolute life," wrote the newspaper.

Police deport HIV Italian

CAIRO (AP) — Police took an Italian citizen to Cairo's airport at gunpoint and deported him Tuesday because he reportedly tested positive for AIDS, news reports and Italian embassy officials said. Under a law passed three years ago, foreigners applying for work permits in Egypt must be tested for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Those who test positive are immediately deported. The state-owned Middle East News Agency said Marco Maria Caletti, an engineer for a chemical factory in the Red Sea port of Suez, was deported because a test "showed he had AIDS for a number of years."

Refugees dropped in Baltic

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two dozen refugees, claiming to be Iraqi Kurds, said they were dumped in the Baltic Sea at night and rowed six hours in rubber boats to reach a desolate Swedish island on Tuesday. The smugglers ship left Estonia early Monday evening, the refugees told National Park Warden Torsten Jonsson. He was having coffee with colleagues on the island reserve of Gotsta Sandon when the families rowed ashore. He said several spoke English well. "The refugees were dropped off from a bigger ship at 4 a.m. (0300 GMT)," said Police Superintendent Karl-Anders Waldman. He said they then rowed in darkness in rubber rafts until they reached the National Park Island, about an hour north of the main island of Gotland. The smugglers' vessel was in international waters and Swedish authorities had no jurisdiction to board it, said Mr. Waldman.

Jordan, Israel negotiating banking in occupied lands

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Israeli officials are meeting in Washington to discuss an agreement on the modalities of Jordanian supervision of the monetary affairs of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the five-year interim autonomy period.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michael Marto is heading the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israeli counterparts.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, in a regular press briefing on Monday, described the talks as technical discussions on the issue of how Jordanian banks might operate in the occupied territories.

Officials and diplomats here said the talks covered an overall framework for not only commercial banks but also for other monetary operations such as exchange houses and currency regulations.

The officials and diplomats expected this round of negotiations to produce an agreement under which the CBJ will assume a supervisory and controlling capacity over commercial banks and exchange houses in the occupied territories.

They noted that the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on autonomy signed on Sept. 13 went into effect on Oct. 13 and Israel is scheduled to begin a limited withdrawal

from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13.

"There is a sense of urgency on both sides," said a diplomatic source. "Palestinians have to see the fruits of the peace agreement on the ground as soon as possible. This is one of the keys to the success of the autonomy accord."

Central Bank of Jordan-Israel agreement on reopening Jordanian banks which closed their operations in the occupied territories in 1967 was an Israeli quest to impose a limit on transfers from the West Bank to the East Bank through the banks, according to reports in the Western media.

The reports said another hurdle was an Israeli stipulation that a part of the deposits in the commercial banks to be reopened in the occupied territories be redeposited in dollars with the Israeli central bank.

A well-informed source brushed aside these reports. "There is a host of other issues that need to be clarified," the source told the Jordan Times. The source declined to elaborate.

Israeli officials have also been keeping a tight veil of secrecy over the conditions that they would like to impose on banking in the occupied territories.

The Jordanian position in the negotiations in Washington stems from a broad framework for economic cooperation agreed with the

Palestinians. This included CBJ supervision and control of commercial banks and exchange houses and continued use of the Jordanian dinar as the dominant currency in the occupied territories.

Dr. Fahed Fanek, a noted Jordanian economist and columnist, wrote in the Arabic-language Al Ra'i daily this week that the Palestinians had withdrawn request that they be represented in the board of directors of the CBJ during the meetings last week of a Jordanian-Palestinian committee on economic cooperation.

According to Dr. Fanek, the shift in stand came after the Jordanian government made it clear that the very nature of the CBJ and the statute of the Central Bank do not permit such representation. While the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan is appointed, the rest of the board represents the Jordanian private sector.

Dr. Fanek, stressing that the information available to him was not official and incomplete in view of the secrecy that surrounded the talks, also reported that the Palestinians wanted to issue bonds in Jordanian dinars and set up a stock market as well as a Palestinian development bank.

Highly-placed officials declined to confirm or deny the reports. "It is premature to discuss the details," said a senior official. "There will be a formal announcement as and when things are finalized."

They told the court last month that they were beaten and humiliated during a two-month detention at the intelligence department.

Defense witnesses have told the three-man military tribunal that they had seen signs of torture on the bodies of some of the accused when they were allowed to visit them two months after the arrests.

The names of the witnesses and defendants were withheld upon orders from the court.

The hearings resumed after a controversial absence of several defense lawyers at a session on Sunday prompted the presiding judge, Colonel Hafez Amin, to warn that he would unilaterally appoint state attorneys if the counsels did not attend sessions.

All the seven defense lawyers were present in court Tuesday, but none of them offered any explanation for the

absence on Sunday.

The doctor told the four-hour hearing Tuesday that he and two other medical examiners had checked four of the defendants and found them in "normal health conditions."

"I cannot say they were tortured," he said.

Five of the accused were cadets at Muta University, a military-civilian college in south Jordan, and another is an ex-student, who is accused to act on behalf of Hezb Al Tahrir to recruit the cadets to carry out the plot.

The prosecution said the students were in open fire on the King while inspecting a guard of honour during a June 26 graduation ceremony.

The defendants were arrested in April after an informant tipped off the authorities to the alleged plot, according to prosecutor Muhammed Hizazi, an army major.

The court adjourned until Wednesday, when the defense continues its case.

Doctor says he cannot substantiate torture allegations

AMMAN (AP) — A government doctor testified on Monday that they were beaten and humiliated during a two-month detention at the intelligence department.

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